




THE INDEPENDENT


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Tyson's return: fear and goading in LA REVIEW FRONT



Deborah Orr: Your nanny should know PAGE 7



Richard & Judy answer your questions PAGE 8

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW + FASHION

Dobson refuses to close secure hospital taken over by inmates

THE DISASTROUS failure of a top-security mental hospital to control some of Britain's most dangerous criminals was revealed in a report yesterday which described how it became an outpost of the pornography industry.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
COLIN BROWN AND
IAN BURRELL

new powers to allow the Secretary of State to sack NHS staff, and tougher controls over patients with personality disorders.

The nine-month £7.5m inquiry - triggered by allegations from Stephen Daggett, a convicted child abuser who absconded from the hospital in 1996 - found pornography was "widely available", security was "far from good" and the whole unit "deeply flawed". The inquiry blamed the hospital's managers for being "secretive, out of touch and totally unable to control this large institution".

The institution was dominated by "clever and manipulative" prisoners. Mr Fallon - who said the whole system was "rotten" - concluded: "The hospital's negative, defensive and blame-ridden culture is so deeply ingrained that we doubt even the most talented management team could turn it around."

He said: "The management culture of the hospital was dysfunctional. Senior managers were secretive, out of touch and totally unable to control this large institution. We therefore have no confidence in the ability of Ashworth Hospital to flourish under any management. It should close."

But Mr Dobson told the Commons that the institution's problems were not those of "bricks and mortar" but of management and gave the hospital four months to turn itself round. The first heads to roll yesterday were Paul Lever, chairman of the Ashworth Hospital Authority, and Anne Marie Nelson, former chairman of the Special Hospitals Service Au-



Peter Fallon whose recommendations for the closure of Ashworth hospital were rejected by Frank Dobson

Peter Macdiarmid

'A girl of eight was being groomed for paedophile purposes. Pornography was widely available; patients ran their own businesses; and security was farcical. Ashworth Hospital should close at the earliest opportunity' Peter Fallon QC, chairman of the inquiry

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eight-year-old girl was being "groomed for paedophile purposes", according to an inquiry.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, painted a chilling picture of an asylum taken over by its inmates which left MPs shocked and dismayed. He described it as a "shameful story of confusion, indecision, mismanagement and incompetence". But he rejected the key recommendation in the 600-page report of the public inquiry team under a judge, Peter Fallon QC, to close down Ashworth, and by implication its sister hospitals, Broadmoor and Rampton, "at the earliest opportunity".

It emerged, however, that Ashworth could be broken into smaller segregated units. The inquiry report, which included 55 recommendations, is also likely to lead to sweeping changes in the law, including

thority and chairman of the High Security Services Commissioning Board. Twenty three members of staff named in the report could be sacked or face professional disciplinary action. A former admiral in the Royal Navy, Ian Pirnie, chairman of the Morecambe Bay health authority, was appointed to take over the authority.

The most disturbing part of Mr Fallon's report described how an eight-year-old girl was smuggled into the hospital for more than six years "weekend, after weekend" by her own father, who is now prevented by a court order from contact with her. "The child at the centre of the paedophile allegations was, in our view, being groomed for

paedophile purposes. This is a disgraceful situation in what was supposed to be a hospital, and a high-security hospital at that," said the report.

Yesterday the Government secured a court order to protect the girl's anonymity. Mr Dobson told MPs: "I have checked. She seems to be doing pretty well. She is living a settled life."

The report found that drugs and pornographic videos were freely available; the father of the girl brought pornographic videos into the hospital; several patients had credit cards and were able to borrow large sums of money; and a machine for embossing share certificates was uncovered - leading to another inquiry which un-

covered "scams and money-making ventures in the personality disorder unit".

Members of the inquiry team were clearly disappointed with Mr Dobson's refusal to close Ashworth. They have recommended that patients with personality disorders are treated in smaller separate units away from other mentally ill people

and have advocated wide-scale reform of what they called a "rotten" system.

Asked how he felt about Mr Dobson's decision, Mr Fallon would only say: "Frankly, we disagree... If Ashworth and other special hospitals continue to be structured and run as they currently are we envisage the problems will return."

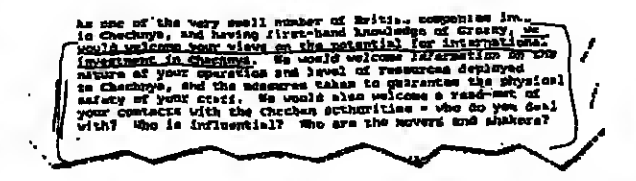
FO asked hostages to report on Chechnya

THE FOUR engineers murdered in Chechnya had been asked by the Foreign Office to report back with sensitive information about "movers and shakers" in the rebellious breakaway republic.

BY ANDREW BUMCOMBE

In a Commons statement last December, Foreign Office minister Tony Lloyd said the advice to the employees, Granger Telecom and British Telecom, had been "unambiguous".

However, in a letter written to Granger two months earlier, a Foreign Office official wrote: "As one of the very small number of British companies involved in Chechnya and having first-hand knowledge of Grozny



Last year's Foreign Office letter to Granger Telecom

(the capital) we would welcome your views on the potential for investment in Chechnya." It also requested information on contacts and

Chechens they considered influential. They also "finally" sought information on Jon James and Camilla Carr, two British kidnapped charity work-

ers, eventually released in September. The Foreign Office last night said it was only trying to secure the release of the charity workers. It refused to comment on whether any information obtained would be passed to the intelligence services.

The four engineers, Rudolf Petschi, Stanley Shaw, Darren Hickey and Peter Kennedy, were kidnapped in Grozny in October last year. Their bodies were found in December, apparently after being forced to

confess to spying. Last night opposition MPs demanded a full explanation. Shadow Foreign minister Cheryl Gillan said: "Tony Lloyd spoke about the advice to the company being unambiguous. It is clear that it was not unambiguous. The use of the words 'formal advice' implies the FO was saying 'don't go, but since you are there tell us what you can'." A Granger spokesman insisted the men had not been acting as spies. "Name Chechens", page 4

Lawrence fury as police escape charges

ONLY ONE police officer is to face serious disciplinary charges for the hunged investigation into the murder of Stephen Lawrence, it was announced yesterday.

BY JASON BENNETT
Crime Correspondent

The serving officer, who faces a disciplinary tribunal into seven charges of neglect of duty, is due to retire this year. He is expected to be the only person to face a serious disciplinary punishment for the entire Lawrence débacle.

The announcement was made in a report published by

the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) yesterday, which concluded that there was no evidence to prove that any officer "consciously discriminated" against Stephen's parents, Doreen and Neville Lawrence, during the investigation.

They reacted with anger and said: "The finding that there was no racism in the investigation is astonishing."

The PCA decision followed a damning report by Kent Police into the initial investigation by Scotland Yard of the stabbing to death of Stephen by a white gang near a bus stop in Eltham, south-east London, in April 1993. It also examined the subsequent internal inquiry by the Metropolitan Police, which cleared their colleagues' work. Kent found a succession of blunders and incompetence.

The one man to face charges is Detective Inspector Ben Bullock, who was second-in-command of the inquiry team.

In May last year the Lawrence public inquiry was told that Det Insp Bullock was given a damning professional appraisal by the senior officer who took over the murder investigation in July 1994.

Leading article, Review, page 3



Ben Bullock: Only officer to face disciplinary charges

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Off football case The national game could be torn apart, court told Home P15

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A nice night out Martin Yesterday, Brad Fraser's new play about an openly gay politician Theatre P11

Repay the mortgage Why it makes sense to pay it off early Midweek Money P12

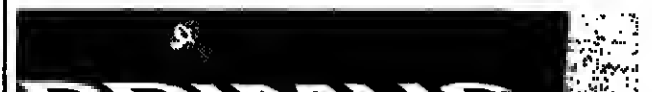


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TODAY'S TELEVISION

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	90 BF	112 K	16.00 FF	700 Dr	5.00 L	5.50 gulder	5.00 SF		



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IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

'I know that whatever happens to me is related to my children's deaths. I have abandoned the idea that one day I will recover'

AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH GENEVIEVE JURGENSEN, AUTHOR OF 'THE DISAPPEARANCE'

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH McRAE, MARK STEEL, ROBERT LEK, FERENCE BLACKER
JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE McILVOY, THOMAS ST CLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Brown spells out plans to join euro

GORDON BROWN has spelled out to the European Commission his plans to bring the British economy into line with the rest of Europe as a prelude to joining the single currency.

In an unpublished report, which has been submitted quietly to the Commission and obtained by *The Independent*, the Chancellor details the measures the Government is taking to prepare the UK for entry.

Ministers said last night that Mr Brown's "convergence programme" was aimed at allowing Tony Blair to call a referendum on joining the euro shortly after the next general election. If Labour retains power, an election would be held in 2001. Britain could join by January 2002, when euro notes and coins start circulating.

However, cabinet sources said there was "an outside chance" of a referendum before the election after the euro's successful launch last week. "If the business community pushes hard, then the momentum may become unstoppable," one senior minister said.

John Redwood, the shadow industry secretary, said: "This document is part of the softening up process, designed to create the impression that joining the euro is inevitable. We think that is rubbish."

Mr Brown's document said the Government was pursuing a strategy "for achieving the stability and convergence" required for Britain to join. The traditional differences between the British economy and those of its EU partners "are becoming less distinct over time", it added.

The Government's policies

BY ANDREW GRICE
AND DIANE COYLE

"should improve the flexibility of the economy... helping to ensure that the UK could maximise the benefits of the single currency."

The Chancellor told the Commission that "to ensure that membership is a genuine option, both public and private sectors are beginning to prepare for the single currency."

The document emphasised the importance of a stable exchange rate for the pound. "The Government is confident that the new arrangements provide the best platform to deliver greater stability in the sterling-euro exchange rate," it said. "Over time, it will allow the UK economic and interest rate cycle to move closer to that of the single currency area."

The fact that UK interest rates, at 6 per cent, are double those in the euro area is explained as a legacy of past volatility in the British economy.

The Maastricht Treaty requires sterling to rejoin the exchange rate mechanism, from which it was forced out in 1992, although a period of stability would probably be acceptable to other EU members.

Mr Brown told the Commission he was due to present a National Changeover Plan outlining the steps necessary for Britain to join the euro "early in the New Year". However, its publication is likely to be delayed until next month, because of the resignation of Peter Mandelson, the former Trade and Industry Secretary, who was helping to draw it up.



Fifty villagers from Lymouth, Devon, yesterday re-enacting the events of 100 years ago when their ancestors manhandled a lifeboat 14 miles overland, to save the crew of the sailing ship 'Forrest Hall' foundering in heavy seas in Portlock Bay

Tim Cuff

Mandelson 'wanted to oust Brown as Chancellor'

THE GOVERNMENT'S wounds over Peter Mandelson's resignation will be torn open by claims in a new book that he planned to replace Gordon Brown as Chancellor as a stepping stone to Number Ten.

A book on Mr Mandelson, called *Mandy: The Unauthorised Biography*, by Paul Routledge, a former political correspondent of the *Independent* on Sunday, claims that Mr Mandelson last autumn "shifted gear" in his "long term game plan" to set his sights on becoming Prime Minister.

Mr Mandelson had set his sights on ousting Robin Cook as Foreign Secretary, but after becoming a Cabinet minister, he raised his ambitions by

BY COLIN BROWN

Chief Political Correspondent

finding it difficult to refocus on policy, instead of the personal feuds across the Cabinet.

It was disclosed in *The Independent* yesterday that a powerful hackbench campaign is being mounted against Mr Mandelson and today the Parliamentary Labour Party is expected to say at a meeting with the Prime Minister at Westminster that he should not bring back Mr Mandelson, at least until after the next election.

Paddy Ashdown and his party intend to embarrass the Government today with a debate depicting "politically partisan presentation, spin-doctoring, unattributed briefing and the pursuit of personal rivalries between ministers".

Port to blame for tanker disaster

THE PORT of Milford Haven admitted yesterday it was to blame for the Sea Empress oil tanker disaster, which cost more than £100m in damage and clean-up costs.

Cardiff Crown Court was told that John Pearn, the pilot who guided the ship on the night it ran aground, had never before handled a ship as big as the 147,000-tonne Sea Empress. He lost control of the ship in the strong tides around the rocky entrance of Milford Haven.

Mr Pearn's employers appeared in court to admit causing the disaster. The port authority pleaded guilty to causing 72,000 tonnes of crude oil to enter the sea off Pembroke-shire, south-west Wales, in February 1996. More than 20,000 sea birds are thought to have perished and 120 miles of coast was polluted. Local fisheries closed for months while tourism claims could be as high as £46m.

BY NICHOLAS SCHOON

His name had been on a letter sent to law firms asking for donations for a building for Amnesty. Other signatories were Lord Irvine, the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and Lord Hoffmann. Kingsley Napley also received the letter and promised to donate £1,000.

The judicial office of the House of Lords had written to General Pinochet's solicitors, Kingsley Napley, mentioning Lord Woolf as a candidate for the new hearing. Lord Woolf stepped down from hosting a fund-raising dinner for Amnesty on 28 January, after being told he may be on the panel.

The agency laid the blame for the spill, Britain's second-worst tanker catastrophe, on the flawed rules, procedures and management of Milford Haven Port Authority, and on defects in the way it trained its maritime pilots.

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COULD YOU LEAD 30 MEN THROUGH 60 MILES OF THIS?

The forecast, NE Norway, frost at first followed by heavy snow showers.

Eight of your men will develop frost bite.

Wind NW force 10, windchill -40C.

Three of them are now unable to walk. What do you do?

Leave them and carry on? Or abort the mission and wait for help.

Visibility 3m. A helicopter medivac is out of the question.

The outlook for tomorrow: Phone 0345 300 111 and tell us you could cope.

BRITAIN TODAY

Noon today

KEY

14 Temperature, °C

30 Wind speed, mph and direction

FORECAST

General situation Western Scotland and Northern Ireland will be windy with rain and mountain snow in the morning, followed by sunnier and squally showers this afternoon. Eastern Scotland will start dry and cold, but rain and hill-snow will quickly spread from the west, although clearing in the afternoon. Meanwhile, England and Wales will start largely fine, but rain will soon reach the west and sweep across all areas during the morning and early afternoon. The rain will last a few hours before brighter weather spreads from the west.

SW England, Wales, W Midlands: A band of rain will sweep in from the west this morning, but it will become brighter with just a few showers this afternoon. A blustery south-west wind. Max temp 7-10C (45-50F).

NR, Cent & NE England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: A dry start but rain will quickly spread from the west, perhaps preceded by snow over the Pennines. A strengthening south-west wind with sunnier intervals and a few showers after the afternoon. Max temp 5-7C (41-45F).

Glasgow, SW & NW Scotland, N Ireland: Rain and hill-snow followed by mainly wintry showers. Strong to gale westerly wind. Max temp 4-7C (39-45F).

Edinburgh, Aberdeen, SE & NE Scotland, N Isles: Rain and hill-snow will arrive later this morning, but it will brighten up before the end of the afternoon. A strengthening south-west wind with gales possible in the north later. Max temp 2-6C (37-43F).

OUTLOOK

It will remain very unsettled and often windy with showers and occasional longer spells of rain, especially in the north where it will be cold enough for snow over the hills. Temperatures in the south will be mainly near or a little above normal.

TRAVEL

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, South Yorkshire M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6102) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6102). Roadworks reduced to 2 lanes both ways. Until 21 November 2000. Durhams and Galloway A74 between Burnhead and J16 Ayr. Major roadworks, until 15 January. Suffolk: A14 Feltwell to Dedham. Roadworks, until 28 February. A1 Roadworks: Call 0836 401777 for the latest road and national traffic news. Source: The Met. Office. Cals charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

LIGHTING UP

Belmont 4.25pm to 8.39pm
Birmingham 4.19pm to 8.12am
Bristol 4.27pm to 8.10am
Glasgow 4.11pm to 8.39am
London 4.17pm to 8.01am
Manchester 4.16pm to 8.18am
Newcastle 4.06pm to 8.23am

HIGH TIDES

Avonmouth 3.38 10.1 4.05 10.4
Cardiff 2.05 3.6 2.35 3.6
Dover 2.09 4.6 2.33 4.6
Dun Laoghaire 1.50 3.1 2.06 3.1
Falmouth 1.40 4.4 2.04 4.4
Greenock 1.40 4.4 2.04 4.4
Harwich 1.30 3.1 2.06 3.1
Hull (Albert Dock) 2.51 7.2 3.30 7.3
Kings Lynn 1.35 4.6 2.04 4.6
Liverpool 1.35 4.6 2.04 4.6
Milford Haven 2.57 7.3 3.30 7.3
Newport 1.50 3.6 2.21 3.6
Plymouth 3.33 1.4 3.44 1.4
Portsmouth 3.33 1.4 3.44 1.4
Preston 3.33 1.4 3.44 1.4
Scarborough 12.49 4.7 1.27 4.8
Wick 8.20 3.0 8.42 3.0

Height measured in metres

AIR QUALITY

Today's readings

London Good
S England Good
Wales Good
C England Good
N England Good
Scotland Good
N Ireland Good

SUN & MOON

Sun rises: 08.02
Sun sets: 16.17
Moon rises: 03.54
Moon sets: 13.23
New Moon: January 17

WEATHERLINE

For the latest forecasts call 0837 5000
followed by the two digits for your area.
Source: The Met. Office. Cals charged at 50p per min (inc VAT).

RAIN OR SHINE

MORE THAN 100 robins in California have been found dead on pavements and foot porches after drinking too much alcohol, a bird rescue centre in Santa Rosa said yesterday. The unusually cold weather caused berries, the birds' favourite food, to stay on the branches longer and the berry juice fermented. All the dead birds had purple stains on their beaks.

YESTERDAY EXTREMES

Warmest: Solihull 10C (50F)
Coldest: Alton 2C (36F)
Wettest: Valley 0.67 in
Sunniest: Dunsen 3.0 hrs
For 24 hours to 2pm Tuesday

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

24 hours to 7pm (GMT) Monday
Information by PA Weather Centre

THE WORLD EUROPE NOON TODAY

Key: 10-12°C, 13-15°C, 16-18°C, 19-21°C, 22-24°C, 25-27°C, 28-30°C, 31-33°C, 34-36°C, 37-39°C, 40-42°C, 43-45°C, 46-48°C, 49-51°C, 52-54°C, 55-57°C, 58-60°C, 61-63°C, 64-66°C, 67-69°C, 70-72°C, 73-75°C, 76-78°C, 79-81°C, 82-84°C, 85-87°C, 88-90°C, 91-93°C, 94-96°C, 97-99°C, 100-102°C, 103-105°C, 106-108°C, 109-111°C, 112-114°C, 115-117°C, 118-120°C, 121-123°C, 124-126°C, 127-129°C, 130-132°C, 133-135°C, 136-138°C, 139-141°C, 142-144°C, 145-147°C, 148-150°C, 151-153°C, 154-156°C, 157-159°C, 160-162°C, 163-165°C, 166-168°C, 169-171°C, 172-174°C, 175-177°C, 178-180°C, 181-183°C, 184-186°C, 187-189°C, 190-192°C, 193-195°C, 196-198°C, 199-201°C, 202-204°C, 205-207°C, 208-210°C, 211-213°C, 214-216°C, 217-219°C, 220-222°C, 223-225°C, 226-228°C, 229-231°C, 232-234°C, 235-237°C, 238-240°C, 241-243°C, 244-246°C, 247-249°C, 250-252°C, 253-255°C, 256-258°C, 259-261°C, 262-264°C, 265-267°C, 268-270°C, 271-273°C, 274-276°C, 277-279°C, 280-282°C, 283-285°C, 286-288°C, 289-291°C, 292-294°C, 295-297°C, 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Early bird is key to global warming

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY
Environment Correspondent

THE GOVERNMENT is to monitor the arrival of the first swallow in spring to check on the progress of global warming. It is one of 35 indicators which have been officially chosen to detect the initial signs of climate change.

Without needing to be prompted by the weekend's collapse of Beachy Head, which the Environment Agency said was climate change-induced, Government scientists have quietly started to monitor and bring together a mass of small and large events, both in the natural world and in society, which may be the first signs of a hotter planet.

Some of these are already strongly suggesting that climate change is no longer a theoretical calamity predicted by the supercomputers of the Met Office, but is already with us.

The indicators they have chosen range from the arrival dates of swallows in spring and the leafing dates of oak trees, to the number of possible skiing days in Scotland, the number of insurance claims for "major weather perils" and the number of human cases of Lyme Disease, caused by a tick which flourishes in warmer weather.

The first indications, certainly from the evidence assembled about the behaviour of birds, plants and insects, is that the greenhouse effect is now here. Over the past twenty years many events in the natural world have started to take place much earlier in the spring, in a way entirely consistent with a warmer climate.

Much of this evidence is startling and when it is assembled, as the Government is doing, it is compelling. The orange tip butterfly, for example, is now emerging about 11 days earlier than it was 20 years ago. The leaves on oak trees at a monitored site in Surrey are emerging about three weeks earlier than when records began in 1947 and the swallow is arriving earlier at eight different bird observatories. Twenty species of birds have shifted their egg-laying dates an average of 8.8 days earlier in the 25-year period from 1971 to 1995.

The importance of the Government's new initiative to bring all this together is that for

THE FUTURE IS HERE ALREADY: HOW NEW WEATHER PATTERNS ARE AFFECTING BRITAIN



BIRDS

Many migrant birds such as the swallow (right) are arriving earlier in Britain from the southern regions where they have spent the winter, and some, such as the blackcap, are now wintering here. Many others are laying their eggs earlier.

Many plants and trees have started to flower earlier in recent years. Hawthorn (left) horse chestnut, blackthorn and oxeye daisy were all shown to be flowering up to three weeks earlier than 100 years ago in a report published last week.

Warm-water and Mediterranean fish species are increasingly turning up off the south-west coasts of Britain. They include the triggerfish (left), the marbled electric ray, the red mullet and various seahorses.

Strong evidence of climate change in Britain is already coming from the behaviour of insect species. Many spring butterflies, such as the orange tip (left) are emerging up to a fortnight earlier from the chrysalis.

If climate change did indeed cause it, this weekend's collapse of Beachy Head would be the most dramatic indication yet of global warming which scientists agree is leading to unstoppable sea-level rise.

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FO asked: 'Who are the key Chechens?'

CHECHNYA IS one of the few countries in the world considered too dangerous for foreign governments to work.

With the exception of one British-based charity - the Halo Trust - which works clearing landmines, the only current Western presence is the observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). So when the engineers from Granger Telecom and British Telecom arrived in the capital Grozny last year, they were a valuable commodity. From a purely economic point of view, the five-year deal to install a mobile phone network and satellite links, of which the men were part, was worth an estimated £190m to the Surrey-based firm.

At the time of the men's kidnapping on October 4 last year, the company's chief executive Ray Worth was able to say: "We undertook the contract with the knowledge (about the lack of se-

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

curity) and considered the risks were worth the effort."

But the men were also a direct source of information about Chechnya, its leadership and investment prospects.

The Independent has learnt that Granger Telecom first met with officials from the Foreign Office in July last year. At the meeting in central London, matters discussed included the nature of the work the company and its employees Darren Hickey, 26, Rudolf Petschi, 42, Stanley Shaw, 58 and self-employed BT contractor Peter Kennedy, 46, were carrying out.

The FO's official advice to the company and other Britons considering travelling to the Caucasus semi-autonomous republic, torn apart by an 18-month war with Russia, was clear: Don't go. But at the same time it was desperately trying to secure the release of two

Quaker-run charity workers, Camilla Carr and Jon James, taken hostage while working in Grozny in the summer of 1997.

It is now clear the FO wanted to use the engineers to gather information about the Carrs. In a letter to Granger from the FO's Eastern Division dated August 13, the desk officer wrote: "As part of our efforts to secure the safe release of Camilla Carr and Jon James... we have had frequent if so far relatively unproductive contacts with the Chechen leadership."

The letter restates what it calls its formal advice about not travelling to the country. But it continues: "As one of the very small number of British companies involved in Chechnya... we would welcome your views on the potential for international investment in Chechnya."

It also asks for views on contacts considered to be the "movers and shakers" in Chechnya, adding: "Finally we

would also like to discuss the Carr and James case. Is there anything else that we might be doing to secure their release?"

Last night an FO spokesman defended its request to the company and said it was only trying to bring about the release of Mr James and Mr Carr.

"There is nothing wrong with this, we would have asked other companies as well," said a spokesman. "It is not spying." The spokesman refused to say whether information would have been passed to the security services.

On September 20, following an alleged bribe payment, Ms Carr and Mr James were released by the hostage-takers.

The four engineers were not to be so lucky. Within weeks of their arrival in Chechnya, they too were taken hostage. For two months there was little word on them and on December 8 their decapitated heads were discovered near the capital.



Refugees from the Chechen civil war. Above: Darren Hickey, Peter Kennedy, Rudolf Petschi and Stanley Shaw



IN BRIEF

McLibel Two begin appeal

THE MCLIBEL Two, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, yesterday launched their appeal against a ruling in 1997 that they libelled McDonald's with a call for an overhaul of fast-food chain should have lost the original trial because some criticisms had been proved. The hearing continues.

Police chief resigns over release

A SENIOR police officer who ordered an old friend's son to be released after being arrested for wife-beating, resigned yesterday. Chief Superintendent Iain Anderson, 49, announced his decision to retire from Strathclyde Police 24 hours after being summoned to explain his actions before Chief Constable John Orr.

Girl found hanging by school tie

A 13-YEAR-OLD girl was in hospital today after her mother found her hanging by her school tie. The girl, from Benchill, Wythenshawe, in Greater Manchester, is in a serious condition. The incident comes just over a week after the death of eight-year-old Marie Bentham, who was found by her mother hanging by a skipping rope.

Silence on mortgage tax relief

THE HOUSING minister, Hilary Armstrong, refused yesterday to comment on media reports that the Urban Taskforce was set to recommend that people who own or buy homes built on greenfield land should lose mortgage tax relief.

Belfast remembers revered writer

THE ACCLAIMED Belfast-born author Brian Moore is being mourned in his home city after his death in the United States. The novelist, who retained strong links with the place of his birth through his books. He died on Sunday at his home near Los Angeles. He was 77.

SUE ARNOLD



Three thousand pounds does seem a lot of money for taking a few pills

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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TV challenge 'could destroy football'

ENGLISH FOOTBALL'S Premier League faces destruction and the country's national game will be torn apart if the League loses its landmark court case against the Office of Fair Trading, a court was told yesterday.

By Nick Harris

In opening statements at the restrictive practices court in central London, the OFT challenged the right of the League's 20 clubs, which range from giants such as Manchester United and Arsenal to less

prominent teams such as Charlton and Wimbledon, to negotiate television deals collectively. At present, the League controls all rights, sales and overseas distribution of television income among its clubs. The current television deals to screen live league games and highlights - with Sky Television and the BBC, the League's two co-defendants in the case - are worth £743m over four years.

The OFT maintains that these deals are against the public interest, that clubs should make individual, not collective, television deals, and that the public should be given a broader choice of channels on which they can watch Premier League football. The OFT central argument against the current position is that the League is operating as a cartel, which is stifling innovation and leading to high prices.

The hearing will cost the parties involved up to £30m over its expected four-month duration. The outcome will be decided by a judge, Mr Justice Ferris, and two lay officials.

Charles Aldous QC, representing the League, opened proceedings yesterday saying it was his client's right, as the governing body, to control centrally the sale of television rights. The League, he said, is controlled by its member clubs and acts in their interest. Should that right to act collec-

tively on behalf of the clubs be removed, Mr Aldous added, equality of wealth distribution, both within the League and to the wider football family, would be threatened.

At present, Mr Aldous said, the Premier League gives some £17.5m a year to football clubs and causes outside its jurisdiction. It announced on Monday that it intends to increase that figure to up to £50m a year when its next television contracts are agreed before

2001. Should the OFT win, he added, not only would that funding be threatened, but Premier League clubs would be selected for takeovers by broadcasting companies pursuing business rather than sporting agendas.

Mr Aldous said that could lead to the break-up of the Premier League and hasten the formation of a breakaway European Superleague including only the most powerful clubs. Jonathan Sumption QC, set-

ting out Sky's position as a co-defendant, said the company would argue that it is legitimate and desirable for a single broadcaster to have, for a limited time, exclusive rights to screen sports events, as long as such rights were regularly renegotiated and sold in a fair and open manner. Mr Sumption added that Sky is not alone in signing exclusive rights for live football. Manchester United, for example, will appear more times on ITV in the European

Champions League this season than on Sky.

Christopher Carr QC, representing the BBC, said the corporation was currently able to make a comprehensive highlights programme such as *Match of the Day* only because the League sells rights collectively, and said it will argue that the current contracts are in the public interest.

The case continues today when the OFT will outline the main arguments of its case.



The Sheridans' isolated cottage near Upwell, Norfolk

Police hunt callous killer in Fenland of PD James

EVEN ON the most clement of days, the Fens are a bleak and brooding place. Yesterday, lashed by wind and rain, a heavy sky pressing down on fields turned grey by an overnight dusting of snow, they offered a vista of unrelieved desolation.

The landscape, flat as a billiard table, crisscrossed by rivers and dykes, is familiar to fans of the crime novelist P D James. At present, though, it is a real-life murder mystery that is being played out in this inhospitable corner of East Anglia.

Police announced yesterday that they had launched a full-scale murder investigation into the deaths of Janice Sheridan, a 45-year-old dog breeder, and her 89-year-old mother, Constance.

The two women lived together quietly outside the Norfolk village of Upwell, near Wisbech. On Sunday, they were found dead in the living room of their isolated cottage, stabbed many times, in what detectives called a "callous and ruthless" attack.

At a press conference yes-

terday, Detective Superintendent Steve Swain, head of Norfolk CID, said police were baffled by the lack of an obvious motive. "They had no enemy in the world who had reason to inflict such horrible injuries on them," he said.

The women were not wealthy and there were no signs of a break-in. Local people regarded the pair as reclusive, but not unfriendly. A team of 30 officers is pursuing two lines of inquiry. One, that the murders may be connected to the women's vocal opposition to the establishment of a travellers' site near Upwell. Two, a possible link to the notoriously murky world of pedigree dog breeding.

Janice Sheridan, who was single, bred prize-winning whippets and was well known on the show circuit. She was due to exhibit a puppy at Cruft's in March. She and her mother, a widow, kept 20 whippets at home.

Det Supt Swain said police were trying to establish whether any of the dogs had

been stolen. None of the whippets was injured in the attacks, and all were in good condition.

The cottage, at the end of a winding, single-lane track called Pingle Bridge, was shrouded in silence yesterday. Police were searching for tyre tracks and were also scrutinising footprints found near the house, although it was thought that they probably belonged to a neighbour who raised the alarm.

The tiny village of Upwell, intensely insular like most Fenland communities, has not known a murder since the 1960s. Pauline Overland, 54, a smallholder, said: "I used to go

down Pingle Bridge to play when I was a child. It's a peaceful and happy place."

In the Five Bells Inn, where a lone drinker supped at lunchtime, the barman, David Ward, said he often saw Janice Sheridan out walking her dogs. "Whoever did this is sick and twisted," he said.

In the Fens, people say that geographic isolation and the monotonous landscape can induce a peculiar form of madness. Whether it can turn into something more sinister, push someone over the edge to commit two apparently senseless murders, must remain, for now, pure speculation.



Police guard the road to Pingle Bridge, a track leading to the cottage in Norfolk where the bodies of Janice and Constance Sheridan were found

Brian Harris

Payout for McQueen over plagiarism libel

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN and Givenchy, the fashion house where he is chief designer, accepted substantial libel damages yesterday over claims of plagiarism from the London listings magazine *Time Out*.

The magazine had carried false allegations by fashion students that McQueen had copied their designs. One of the dresses in question was a white, one-shouldered toga dress first shown at McQueen's debut haute couture show for Givenchy in January 1997.

A spokesperson for McQueen said that Trevor Merrell, 36, a former student of the London College of Fashion, first made contact about 18 months ago, claiming that the dress was a copy of one of his

own designs. Six months later, *Time Out* got hold of another student's story, alleging that one of her fabric designs had been plagiarised by McQueen.

"This sort of allegation is not uncommon," said the McQueen spokesperson. "It took an awful lot of time and energy to deal with these particular claims, which initially we saw as nothing more than annoying. Having taken advice from our lawyers at Givenchy, however, we decided that if we took a stand on this particular occasion it would stop other people from trying it on in the future."

The action by Givenchy follows a series of allegations of

plagiarism in fashion. Breach of copyright in fashion depends on whether the substance of a garment has been copied rather than just the idea behind it.

In 1993, the London-based design duo Antoni & Alison received an out-of-court settlement for undisclosed damages from Giorgio Armani who, they alleged, had produced a T-shirt bearing a logo too close to one of their own designs. In 1994, Ralph Lauren paid £250,000 damages to Yves Saint Laurent for copyright infringement of a black tuxedo evening sheath. Equally high-profile was Liza Bruce's attempt to sue Marks & Spencer over a swimwear design. The designer's legal costs put her out of business.

McQueen, whose spring/



The McQueen dress that he was accused of copying

summer haute couture collection is to be shown this weekend, said: "I was determined to prove that accusations of this nature will not be tolerated."

Ted Hughes wins Whitbread prize

THE LATE POET laureate Ted Hughes received his second posthumous award in as many days yesterday. His collection of poems about his relationship with Sylvia Plath, *Birthday Letters*, won the 1998 Whitbread Poetry Award only 24 hours after it won the T S Eliot Prize.

In two weeks' time Hughes' book could win the £21,000 Whitbread Book of the Year prize,

which he won last year with *Tales From Ovid*.

The panel of nine judges, chaired by Raymond Seitz, former US ambassador to the UK, said: "In this personal collection Hughes avoids every pitfall - of remorse, self-pity, self-justification - that the subject, his wife's

suicide, could have led him into. His account of that relationship seems hewn from granite."

The winner of the award for best novel was Justin Cartwright, a television documentary maker, for his book *Leading The Cheers*, in which an unemployed man returns to small-town America after living in London and begins to rediscover and question his past life.

First novel winner was Giles Foden for *The Lost King of Scotland*. The book traces Idi Amin's eight-year dictatorship of Uganda from the fictional perspective of a young Scottish doctor appointed Amin's personal physician.

Amanda Foreman's biography, *Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire*, won the biography award.

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Fallon inquiry: Management blamed for 'therapeutic nihilism' that allowed unit to become awash with hard-core porn

Ashworth run by inmates not staff



Ashworth hospital: Child played with sex offender

A TELEPHONE call from Dirty Harry's bar in Amsterdam in September 1996 triggered the Ashworth inquiry that reported yesterday. On the line was Stephen Daggett, a convicted paedophile and Ashworth inmate who had absconded days earlier while on a shopping trip to Liverpool. What he had to say lifted the lid on one of the worst scandals to engulf the top-security mental hospital in its 100-year history.

Daggett, 38, claimed the hospital was awash with pornographic literature and videos, that inmates had a ready supply of drugs and alcohol

By JEREMY LAURANCE
Health Editor

gramme - he had managed to withdraw £1,500 from his building society account and then given the nurse escorting him, Jim Corrigan, the slip.

Daggett was picked up in Canterbury and returned to Ashworth on 7 October. He set about producing an account of his claims entitled "My Concerns". The hospital authorities dismissed his version of events.

It was only when Alice Mahon, the Labour MP whose constituents in Halifax include Daggett's parents, produced a 60-page dossier based on his account that ministers took notice.

The allegations related to the Personality Disorder Unit, a block of five locked wards that housed some of the most intractable cases at Ashworth. By common consent among psychiatrists, offenders with personality disorders are the hardest, if not impossible, to treat. This "therapeutic nihilism" fostered a policy of containment rather than treatment - and what emerged was that the unit was effectively run by its 113 inmates rather than the staff.

As ministerial anxiety about Ashworth grew, in the light of Alice Mahon's claims, a raid was ordered on Lawrence ward, part of the Personality Disorder Unit, on 17 January 1997. What it disclosed beggared belief. One of Britain's three top security mental hospitals, housing some of the most dangerous offenders in the land, had become a centre for the circulation of hard-core pornography.



Stephen Daggett: Phone call triggered inquiry

and, most damaging of all, that an eight-year-old girl had made regular visits and been allowed to play in a garden next to a ward, with a patient convicted of sex offences against children.

Daggett, who spent 12 years in Ashworth after being convicted of three indecent assaults against young girls, promised to return to the hospital on one condition - that his claims would be investigated. He had absconded, he said, because it was the only way of drawing attention to a situation that had been ignored by the hospital authorities.

While on the trip to Liverpool - part of his rehabilitation pro-

gramme - he had managed to withdraw £1,500 from his building society account and then given the nurse escorting him, Jim Corrigan, the slip. Routine searches at the hospital were farcical. One case involving Mr Corrigan, the nurse who escorted Daggett, recorded how he would sit on a patient's bed reading a pornographic magazine before leaving and marking it down as a search. He was later dismissed.

Two weeks after the raid, the eight-year-old daughter of a former inmate of Ashworth was taken into care. The father, known as Mr Y, had regularly taken her into the hospital and was also the main source of the pornography in the hospital, which he had brought in by the car-load. In the chilling words of yesterday's report the girl was being "groomed for paedophile



Peter Fallon: Recommends Ashworth should close after finding senior managers 'totally unable to control the institution' Peter Macdarmid

AGENDA FOR CHANGE

ASHWORTH has been given four months to develop an action plan to implement urgent changes.

■ Four NHS employees named in Fallon report and still employed at Ashworth are to be disciplined.

■ Arrangements for dealing with people with personality disorders to be reviewed.

■ £4.5m to be invested in improved security at Ashworth, including x-rays, metal detectors and sniffer dogs, and a further £1.5m for extra security staff at all three special hospitals.

■ Visits by children other than relatives of patients banned since September 1998.

■ Review of all aspects of security, including the use of post and telephones, at all three special hospitals to report directly to NHS chief executive, Sir Alan Langlands.

■ Social Services Inspectorate to conduct inquiries into social work aspects at the three special hospitals.

been criticised for more than a decade for being too big, too crowded and too isolated, professionally and geographically.

Sir Louis Blom Cooper, the distinguished QC who chaired an inquiry into Ashworth in 1992 that uncovered evidence of a brutal, dehumanising regime, said yesterday the hospitals were "unmanageable" and the Government should have begun dismantling them years ago. He had found a penal, oppressive regime dominated by the Prison Officers' Association, to which most of the nurses belonged.

Speaking on BBC radio, he said: "They are much too big... [and] they carry around the terrible legacy of the criminal lunatic asylum... they never actually got rid of the idea that they were partly a prison."

Mind, the mental health charity, echoed his views. "We want a national network of smaller, more manageable

TROUBLED HISTORY

THE FIRST hospital appeared on the Ashworth site in 1878 - a convalescent home, Moss Side House, for children from Liverpool workhouses.

By 1914, the hospital had been taken over by the Red Cross and established a reputation for treating shell-shocked soldiers from the Great War.

Moss Side became a special hospital in 1933. In the 1970s, overcrowding at Broadmoor resulted in further expansion and the construction of Park Lane Special Hospital on land at the facility.

Park Lane opened in 1974 and was gradually expanded until 1984 into a high-security psychiatric facility operating independently of Moss Side. In 1989, the two hospitals were amalgamated to become Ashworth Hospital. Patients include the Moors murderer Ian Brady.

In March 1991, a television documentary alleged that a patient had died after being beaten by staff. A government inquiry led to a major shake-up.

In 1996, the convicted paedophile Stephen Daggett escaped from the hospital in what he said was a protest against his treatment in the hospital's Personality Disorder Unit. He compiled a dossier of claims that led to the new inquiry being ordered.

high-security units rather than these massive institutions that are trying to treat people with a huge range of mental health needs," said a spokeswoman.

There had been earlier signs of improvement. A report by the Health Advisory Service in 1996 said there had been "major advances" in the running of Ashworth and that "a great deal of progress had been made in addressing the unhelpful aspects of the previous hospital culture". It appears this progress was subsequently lost and, according to yesterday's report, weak management was to blame. Frank Dobson, Secretary of State for Health, described it as "a systematic shambles".

Last night Daggett, who is now housed at Rampton Hospital, spoke of his "vindication". "I do not expect to be thanked for what I did. At first I was ridiculed because people simply could not get their head around what I was telling them," he said.

Inspectors criticise regimes at Britain's top-security sites

By JEREMY LAURANCE

SINCE 1980, Britain's three top-security mental hospitals have been subject to critical reports. There have been two for each institution, Broadmoor in Berkshire, Rampton in Nottinghamshire and Ashworth in Merseyside.

Broadmoor, which was founded in 1863, holds 443 patients at a cost each of £93,000 a year, including Peter Sutcliffe, the Yorkshire Ripper.

In 1988 the Health Advisory Service and Social Security Inspectorate said "time was running out for a hospital largely without direction displaying all the faults of a total custodial institution and housed in grim Victorian buildings". That was followed in 1993 by an inquiry



Two reports criticised the organisation at Rampton

into the death of Orville Blackwood and two other black patients at Broadmoor.

Rampton was founded in 1912, and holds 448 patients at a cost each of £96,000 a year, including nurse Beverly Allitt.

In 1980 a report by Sir John Boynton condemned many features of its organisation and practice and in 1989 a follow-up inquiry found continuing grounds for serious criticism. Ashworth, which was found-

ed in 1933, holds 456 patients at a cost each of £105,000 a year, including the Moors murderer, Ian Brady. In 1992, a report by Sir Louis Blom Cooper uncovered a "brutalising regime" in which patients were abused and humiliated by staff.

The Government ordered an internal review of high security care by Dr John Reed. Published in July 1994, it recommended a cut in the size of the special hospitals and the transfer of patients to smaller units. Ministers shelved the main recommendations.

Yesterday a report by Peter Fallon said senior managers were "totally unable to control the institution" and it should close. It was reviewed by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health.

Alert over 'impoverished' jail

THE CHIEF Inspector of Prisons, Sir David Ramsbotham, has criticised the "seriously impoverished" conditions at Birmingham prison.

The prison, known as Winson Green, which holds 1,100 in cells designed to take 743, was described by Sir David as "grossly overcrowded". He said the Prison Service should rethink the way it runs all "local" prisons, the jails where people are kept before they are tried.

In a report on the prison, Sir David stated that only 10 per cent of prisoners were receiving education, and it had no pro-

grammes to treat sex offenders, despite containing a large number of such criminals.

The jail's health centre was described as "the dirtiest and dirtiest that inspectors had seen anywhere", although it employed eight cleaners. Prisoners in the health centre were given their last meal of the day at 3.45pm.

Sir David said: "I hope that this report will be read with some concern by ministers and Prison Service headquarters because it is yet another gross-

ly overcrowded 'local' prison in which the treatment and conditions of prisoners fall far below the acceptable."

He said that 75 per cent of the prisoners at Birmingham had been sentenced, so they should not have been in a local prison. Up to 700 were unemployed and spent nearly all day locked in cells.

Prison officers were over-stretched because when a prisoner was transferred for treatment at an outside hospital, six officers, working in pairs on eight-hour shifts, were required to give 24-hour cover. Sir David reported: "One prisoner

has now been on such a watch for over five months. I dread to think what is the cost of six officers a day for over 150 days."

The director-general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, said: "I recognise the fact that Birmingham prison currently holds more inmates than it would in an ideal world. However, as a local prison, Birmingham has a duty to accept into custody all those committed to it by the courts in its catchment area."

He said the prison had recently asked for further funding, which would finance a sex-offender programme.

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Ford Dealers

Railway round-up rouses Prescott from his holiday blues

JOHN PRESCOTT looked bored and fed up during most of Transport and Environment questions yesterday.

Making his first Commons appearance since his suggestion of a new power axis with Gordon Brown, he seemed unusually pre-occupied. Rather more overweight than usual, he looked as though the festive indulgence had taken its toll. Maybe he was trying to diet, which might have accounted for his unwillingness to react, or perhaps, now the boss is back from the Seychelles, he misses being in charge.

The recess was an enjoyable experience for the Deputy Prime Minister to run the show and live

it up in the official residence at Dorneywood, while giving a series of interviews hinting that Old Labour would be taking over in the wake of Peter Mandelson's resignation. In the Chamber, Mr Prescott can usually be goaded into a rage. He mutters incessantly, even when Tories attack him indirectly. Not today.

Bernard Jenkin, a Tory front-bencher, asked Richard Caborn, a junior minister, about favouritism in Mr Prescott's constituency over Government road projects.

Mr Jenkin was suggesting Mr Prescott has double standards, proclaiming him to be anti-car

everywhere, except in Hull. The Deputy Prime Minister stirred briefly, but could not even be bothered to shout his usual obscenities from his seated position.

Even Rosie Winterton (Lab, Doncaster Central) asking a patsy question about the role of buses failed to ignite him. At the mention of buses he usually waxes lyrical, but on this occasion he mumbled something about more people being able to use low-floor buses.

Richard Ottaway, another Tory, asked if Mr Prescott would resign if the Jubilee Line Extension was not open in time for the Millennium. "It will be," Mr Prescott snapped.

THE SKETCH



MICHAEL BROWN

If there were delays they would be sorted out but the problems were "all the Tories' fault" anyway.

Only when we got to railways did Mr Prescott rouse himself like a lazy lion to play his favourite game of Fat Controller. Mr Prescott gets it both ways with trains.

If any MP takes him to task about the ghastly services, he blames it all on the Tories and privatisation. If anything is going well, it is, he says, only because he is putting more money into trains. He got momentarily excited when it came to discussion of the Strategic Rail Authority which, according to him, will solve all the ills of privatisation. But there was Tory mockery when he declared that there would be a "rail summit" on 23 February.

Mr Prescott did his best, without enthusiasm, to bluster his way through rail questions with a series of statistics. "800 new drivers; 500 new rolling stock vehicles." Now that he has become respectable, responsible and very important, there are fewer examples of the old Prescott, where anger and rage were his hallmarks.

We did get one example of a Prescott howler, however, when he talked of a "crash programme to find new drivers".

With Mr Prescott largely taking a back seat yesterday, it was left to the formidable Transport Select Committee chairman, Gwyneth

Dunwoody, to provide us with the cabaret act as she described the latest horrors of travelling on Richard Branson's Virgin Trains.

Mrs Dunwoody reported that in her area there are no printed timetables available to passengers and suggested that this was probably just as well because since, as no trains run on time anyway, passengers might as well guess what time trains arrive and depart.

Forget rail summits, Mr Prescott: put Mrs Dunwoody in charge of your authority and Mr Branson and his ilk won't have a prayer before her formidable powers of rage and persuasion.

Payout after 15 years for GCHQ staff

TRADE UNION RIGHTS
By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

FOURTEEN STAFF who were dismissed from the top-secret government communications headquarters for refusing to surrender their union membership will be offered compensation for lost pension rights, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, announced yesterday.

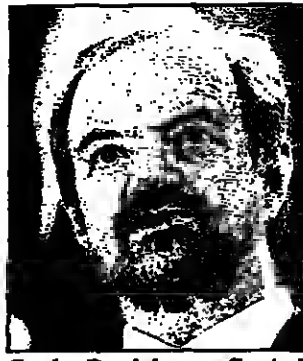
Mr Cook said his decision "reflected the principled and brave stand" taken by the 14 after Margaret Thatcher banned union rights at GCHQ in Cheltenham in 1984 when she was prime minister.

The announcement marks an end to a campaign that has become a cause célèbre in the Government's relations with trade unions.

The Foreign Secretary said the issue had been one of his priorities since he took office in May 1997 because the policy by the Thatcher government had been "wrong" and the 14 should not be "suffering" in their retirement because they had "stuck to their principles".

"The essential point for me and for the trade unions was whether we could distinguish between the 14 who were dismissed and others who left GCHQ. We are both now satisfied that a distinction can be made on behalf of those who took their principled stand," he added.

The amount of their compensation will depend on how long each of the 14 was serving at GCHQ and what grade they



Cook: Decision reflected the 'principled stand'

held. According to sources, three of the 14 were reinstated in government service, seven were past retirement age and the pension benefits of one had been brought forward on health grounds.

But they have accepted the terms of Mr Cook's decision and are said to be "delighted" that finally an end had been put to a "clear wrong" by the government of the time.

The ban was imposed at the height of Mrs Thatcher's battle against the trade unions during the mid 1980s. She claimed that civil servants' membership of the trade unions posed a "conflict of interest" with loyalty to the state, and that industrial action during the 1981 civil service pay strike had compromised the country's security.

Seven thousand staff were subsequently offered £1,000 each in compensation and the 14 were eventually sacked for refusing to leave their union.

John Monks, the TUC general secretary, led trade union

tributes, saying: "This finally closes a sorry chapter in British history. Robin Cook deserves great credit for righting this wrong."

John Sheldon, the general secretary of the Council of Civil Service Unions, said: "Compensating those trade unionists dismissed from GCHQ for the loss of their pension rights is the final step necessary to remedy the wrong done in January 1984. The announcement ensures that those brave trade unionists who stood out against the actions of the previous government even to the point of dismissal will not now suffer in their retirement as a consequence."

Mr Cook said his decision followed talks with the Council of Civil Service Unions and the TUC, which had reached "agreement in principle".

"This decision reflects the principled stand which the 14 trade unionists took, to the point of dismissal, against the attempt to take away their basic trades union rights," he said in a parliamentary written reply.

"The additional pensions benefits will be provided through a special scheme under the Superannuation Act 1972, which will be laid before Parliament once the details have been finalised."

Mr Cook added in a separate statement that the 14 "took a brave stand in the 1980s against a policy that was wrong."

"This agreement means that they will no longer suffer in their retirement for sticking to their principles," he added.



Sir David Gore-Booth, former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, outside his London home yesterday. Andrew Shuart

Diplomat 'behaved like Waugh'

A SENIOR diplomat behaved like someone "out of Evelyn Waugh" when he responded to a British complaint by firing off an angry letter to the man's boss, a Commons select committee was told yesterday.

Sir David Gore-Booth, the former ambassador to Saudi Arabia, was heavily criticised in an ombudsman's report after Paul Surtees, a British Aero-

space employee in the country, lost his job. The diplomat, who left the service recently, found himself under attack from the House of Commons Public Administration Committee, where MPs criticised a letter he wrote in 1994 to BAE's chief executive after Mr Surtees complained about the consular service. In it, Sir David referred to Mr Surtees as "one of yours".

Rhodri Morgan, the Labour chairman of the committee, told Sir David: "That comes straight out of Evelyn Waugh and I find it extremely disturbing."

Sir David replied: "I have made it the business of my career not to act like Evelyn

Waugh." Sir David said Mr Surtees was working on the £20bn al-Yamamah arms contract on behalf of the Government, so he had a right to pass comment.

Sir John Kerr, the head of the diplomatic service, said that the incident was "disgraceful". Ambassadors had been issued with guidelines, telling them to keep any complaints confidential, he added.

David Wilmick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said Mr Branson should "stop ballooning" and deal with the day to day misery of thousands of rail passengers.

Mr Prescott said it was "generally agreed" there had not been an improvement in the quality of the railway system since privatisation.

Minister calls trains summit

TRANSPORT
By SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

RAIL PASSENGERS who have been angered by delays and low standards of service will be able to complain personally to leaders of the rail industry at a summit next month, it was announced yesterday.

John Prescott, Deputy Prime Minister, said the Rail Summit on 25 February would kick-start a long-term effort to improve standards across the railway network.

Amid continuing problems with the performance of train companies and Railtrack, Mr Prescott will seek to thrash out plans for immediate action at the meeting.

The move follows last November's meeting between Mr Prescott and the train companies, when they pledged to recruit 800 new drivers and introduce 500 new trains.

A spokesman for the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions said the meeting was being billed as a transport version of the "water summit" held with water firms last May on action to prevent leaks.

Mr Prescott's announcement came at a question time as MPs attacked the quality of rail services, singling out Richard Branson's Virgin West Coast main line trains for special criticism.

David Wilmick, Labour MP for Walsall North, said Mr Branson should "stop ballooning" and deal with the day to day misery of thousands of rail passengers.

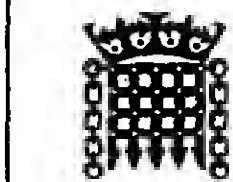
Mr Prescott said it was "generally agreed" there had not been an improvement in the quality of the railway system since privatisation.

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THE HOUSE



Fraud tally

BENEFIT FRAUD is so prevalent that Sir John Bourn, the comptroller and auditor general, qualified the National Insurance fund's accounts for the 12th year running. Sir John said fraud in the payment of Jobseekers' allowance amounted to £46.9m in 1997-98 and that misuse of giro and order books could add up to a further £44m.

Crony claims

THE GOVERNMENT ran into claims of "cronyism" as it announced the membership of its panel on the future of BBC funding. The Funding Review Panel will be chaired by one of Gordon Brown's closest economic advisers, Gavyn Davies, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs.

Business today

Commons: Debates on pay for nurses; future of the Post Office. Cabinet Office questions. Prime Minister's questions. Debate on Government information and Britain's role in Europe. Lords: Debates on prevention of HIV/Aids in sub-Saharan Africa; increased time for leisure activities; disciplinary procedures for hospital doctors.

Labour hit by 'jobs for the boys' outcry

MINISTERS FACED renewed claims of Labour sleaze in town halls yesterday after allegations of a "jobs for the boys" scandal at a Midlands council.

Gillian Shephard, shadow Environment Secretary, called on John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, to investigate after a senior Labour councillor in Walsall claimed that he had been asked by Union officials to find jobs for Labour party members threatened with redundancy.

Graham Walker, who has since quit the party, said union officials made clear there was a long-standing agreement that Labour supporters' jobs would be saved in budget cuts.

"They were saying co-operate in finding jobs for these people or all hell will break loose," he said.

Two Union officials were allegedly caught on tape asking the councillor to spare five staff

from new regulations follows cases where children have been harmed by professional carers. Other measures include the establishment of a Criminal Records Bureau to make police checks easier.

Louise Davis, principal of the Norland College in Berkshire, which trains nannies, dismissed arguments that a compulsory register would be cumbersome. She said: "It would be no bigger than the register of general nurses." There also needed to be na-

tionally recognised training standards.

Cheryl Winton, founder of Playpen, a lobbying group on children's safety, said making the regulatory system voluntary would still leave less scrupulous agencies free to operate. Caroline Abrahams, head of public policy for the charity, NCH Action for Children, said childcare involved a constantly shifting population, often of young women, which would be difficult to monitor.

Deborah Orr, Review page 5

Register of nannies to be voluntary

CHILD CARE POLICY
By LOUISE JURY

Margaret Hodge, the Education and Employment minister, said: "If you have a massive national register it becomes a bureaucratic nightmare. It's very difficult to keep accurate and up to date and police."

Announcing the plan, including new guidance for local authorities and parents, Mrs Hodge said the safety of children was "paramount". A call

to meet high standards of service on everything from dustbin collection to meals on wheels.

Councils will have to meet performance targets and subject plans to scrutiny by the local electorate. They will be inspected by the Audit Commission to ensure they are providing value for money compared with similar authorities.

Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government minister, said the Bill would ensure competition between the public and private sector. Councils would be obliged to strive for continuous improvement in services, a contrast to the Tory regime, which led to "minimum quality at minimum cost by minimalist providers", she said.

Mr Jenkin, a Tory environment spokesman, said: "This Bill is an invitation to cronyism of the worst kind that we see endemic in so many Labour councils."

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to meet high standards of service on everything from dustbin collection to meals on wheels.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

New peer gets Pinochet role

THE CHAIRMAN of the BSE inquiry, Sir Nicholas Phillips, took his seat as a new law lord. Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers will be one of the seven peers who will hear the fresh appeal by former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet against moves to extradite him to Spain. He becomes a law lord on the retirement of Lord Lloyd of Berwick.

Smoking survey

PEERS WILL be surveyed whether there should be a smoking ban in the public rooms and corridors of the Lords. Liberal Democrat Lord Avebury said because of the dangers of passive smoking a ban would be "ideal and show an example".

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ay blues

Dunwoody, to provide the cabaret act as she described the horrors of travelling on Branson's Virgin Train. Mrs Dunwoody reported that her area there are no timetables available to passengers and suggested that this was not just as well because the no trains run on time anyway. Forget rail summit, Prescott: put Mrs Dunwoody in charge of your authority and Branson and his ilk won't pray before her formidable powers of rage and persuasion.

Minister calls trains summit

TRANSPORT
BY SARAH SCHAFER
Political Reporter

RAIL PASSENGERS have been angered by delays to standards of service. Mrs Dunwoody reported that her area there are no timetables available to passengers and suggested that this was not just as well because the no trains run on time anyway. Forget rail summit, Prescott: put Mrs Dunwoody in charge of your authority and Branson and his ilk won't pray before her formidable powers of rage and persuasion.

THOUSANDS MORE people are expected to be jailed in the next few years after the announcement yesterday of automatic three-year minimum prison sentences on third-time burglars. Prison officials and penal reformers were taken by surprise by the timing of the initiative, which appears to have been rushed through to provide the Government with some much needed "positive news". The measure, which was originally introduced by Michael Howard, the former Tory home secretary, will come into force in December. From that date an offender who carries out three domestic burglaries will automatically be sent to jail for three years, although in exceptional circumstances the courts can give longer or shorter prison terms. The National Association of Probation Officers calculates that about 5,000 offenders are under their supervision for three or more convictions for burglary. They estimate that about 8,000 people will have committed three house break-ins by 2004. The Home Office put the figure at 4,000 in the next 10 years - a figure widely ridiculed by penal groups. The repeat burglars, who will serve 16 months of their three-year sentences, will fill the estimated 4,000 prison places freed by the extension of electronic tagging. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, made the announce-

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The newly discovered planet is about the right distance from its star in the Milky Way for the possibility of life. Science Photo Library

Milky Way planet may support life

AN INTERNATIONAL team of scientists has discovered an Earth-sized planet in the middle of the Milky Way that may support life, according to one of the researchers.

It is the most promising candidate of 17 "extrasolar" planets discovered by various techniques over the past few years. Most of those are gas giants like Jupiter, or else too remote from a star to have any chance of supporting life. The new planet appears to be both the right size and distance to give life a chance.

Ian Bond, of Auckland University, said the new planet, which lies about 30,000 light years away, would probably be a little bit heavier than the Earth. "It has a probable mass range between that of the Earth and that of the planet Neptune (which has 17 times the Earth's mass)".

No pictures exist of the distant planet, which was detected

BY CHARLES ARTHUR
Technology Editor

ed last July by the team at Mount John Observatory on New Zealand's South Island with Japanese, American and Australian astronomers.

Crucially, the new planet is about the right distance from its star to sustain life, if it contains the correct mixture of elements. The distance from the Earth to the Sun (93 million miles) is defined as one "astronomical unit", or AU. Mr Bond said the so far unnamed planet "will be something like between one to four astronomical units, which places it in a promising region".

The planet was discovered using a relatively new technique called gravitational microlensing, which employs supersensitive equipment to detect a dark object's movement in front of a far more distant star. "This is the first

discovery using the microlensing technique. It's the only technique that is sensitive to Earth-size planets," Mr Bond said.

The microlensing method's power is not sufficient, however, to help scientists to tell whether there is any water or other elements thought of as essential to life, for example.

Most of the extrasolar planets discovered so far have been detected because they are so massive that they induce a "wobble" in the motion of their parent star as they orbit around it.

However, such planets are unlikely candidates to support life because of their enormous surface gravities, wildly varying temperatures and the preponderance of elemental gases in their atmospheres. Gravitational microlensing, by comparison, can detect much smaller planets at greater distances.

Habitual burglars get three years' jail

THOUSANDS MORE people are expected to be jailed in the next few years after the announcement yesterday of automatic three-year minimum prison sentences on third-time burglars.

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BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

ment alongside details of a £50m investment in burglary prevention schemes.

It emerged that the Prison Service knew about the decision only a few days ago. A series of emergency meetings was held at the Home Office on Monday.

Mr Straw denied he was returning to the Tory policy of "Prison Works", saying he had created a "sensible and balanced" programme combining prevention and punishment.

"This is the only effective way to reduce crime. Our approach to burglary makes it clear that we will both punish persistent burglars and act to prevent burglary in the first place," he said. Minimum jail terms would even out inconsistencies in sentencing across the country, he added.

The move immediately drew criticism from the opposition, with the Conservatives saying the Government was simply accepting Tory measures. The Liberal Democrats warned that the fight against crime would be hampered by a drop in police numbers.

The three-year mandatory sentence was described as "a bombshell" by the Prison Reform Trust. Stephen Shaw, director, said mandatory penalties were "wrong in principle and likely to be disastrous in practice". He added: "The impact on the prison population is likely to be much greater than the 4,000."

Doctors 'defying ban on Viagra'

DOCTORS ARE defying the Government and prescribing the impotence drug Viagra on the NHS, the British Medical Association said yesterday.

A spokesman said it was aware some GPs were breaking a ban imposed by Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, last September amid fears that NHS prescriptions could cost the service millions of pounds.

And the GPs could be given official support from the BMA committee representing them, which meets on 21 January. It has threatened to issue its own advice if the Government does

BY LOUISE JURY

not clarify the position. Before Christmas, the BMA demanded "clear advice" on prescribing policy. Mr Dobson told the BMA the guidance still stood and that it provided "a sensible approach".

A BMA spokesman said the Government was telling doctors not to prescribe Viagra on the NHS, but GPs would be in breach of terms of service if they did not prescribe it to someone who clinically needed it.

A Department of Health spokesman said "substantive" advice would be provided soon.

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Tainted Cresson fights for survival



Edith Cresson, who is facing a rising tide of demands for her resignation from the European Commission AFP

THE POLITICAL crisis over fraud in the European Commission deepened yesterday with a scathing attack on Jacques Santer by the Prime Minister of Sweden and more calls for the sacking of two members of his team.

In a measure of the dismay felt by Scandinavian governments, even after Mr Santer, the Commission's President, promised a full clean-up on Monday, Goran Persson, the Swedish premier, wrote to him yesterday, suggesting he was trying to stifle the fraud debate.

"This issue poses enormous dangers for the Union and for the public's faith in the Union," Mr Persson wrote, "if we do not speak out against unacceptable tendencies, if we try to suppress discussion, then we do not act as responsible politicians. This is something I, for one, cannot be a part of."

He was replying to a letter from Mr Santer in which the Commission chief reprimanded him for "hurting the Union" by discussing the suspension of a Commission whistleblower on Swedish television. The letter

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels

to Mr Santer was intended to be confidential but, in keeping with the Swedish tradition of transparency, was immediately made public in Stockholm.

The resignations of commissioners Edith Cresson of France and Manuel Marin of Spain are being demanded by a majority of members of the European Parliament as their price for not sacking the entire Commission for financial mismanagement and fraud. The pressure for retribution is expected to grow today, as the Commission faces new allegations concerning the wife of the Portuguese commissioner Joao de Deus Pinheiro, who is alleged to have been given a job with the Commission.

A motion of censure against the Commission, which if passed would force its 20 members to resign en masse, will be voted on in Strasbourg tomorrow but will now be accompanied by a separate resolution specifically naming Mrs Cresson, the former

French prime minister and current commissioner for education, and Mr Marin, a vice-president of the Commission.

The stakes were raised last night when Socialist MEPs, the second largest group in Strasbourg, tabled another resolution demanding that Mr Santer himself resign, if individual members are "deemed culpable of financial or administrative mismanagement". The Socialists oppose what they call "cherry picking" individual commissioners but their tactic could backfire if Mr Santer ends up on trial.

Mr Marin, accused of turning a blind eye to serial mismanagement in the humanitarian aid division up to 1995, was contrite on Monday when he told MEPs he was "hurting" from the charges. But Mrs Cresson, who is being held responsible for the maladministration of EU-funded education and training schemes, angered MEPs by appearing arrogant and defensive.

Conservative and Christian Democrat MEPs grouped in the European Peoples Party (EPP)

which, with over 200 members is the biggest bloc in the parliament, turned up the heat on Mr Santer, throwing their weight behind Liberal Democratic efforts to have the two most criticised commissioners forced out. But there were some signs yesterday that the commission's united front may be cracking.

Mr Santer and the Dutch commissioner Hans van den Broek appealed to the EPP's members last night not to criticise individuals. Officials believe the French government from May come under pressure from Bonn today to urge Mrs Cresson to stand down. This will ensure German plans to push through sweeping budgetary reforms by March are not jeopardised.

EU diplomats yesterday said the Commission had been exposed by the Union's parliament as "living in a time warp".

"It is no longer enough to say you are innocent, you have to demonstrate it and you have to offer a credible response to allegations, or else you resign," a senior EU official said.

Germany aims to end British veto on taxes

TONY BLAIR'S European strategy was placed under further pressure yesterday as Joschka Fischer, the German Foreign Minister, outlined his government's ambition to end Britain's right to veto tax harmonisation.

Mr Fischer told the European Parliament the aim of the German government was to limit the principle of unanimous voting to fundamental constitutional decisions.

European integration had to be pursued, he said, to embrace such areas as taxation, particularly since the launch of the single currency. "Economic and monetary integration is largely completed with the introduction of the euro. Only a few areas are lacking, such as closer harmonisation of tax policies as advocated by Germany."

Germany took over the presidency of the European Union from Austria on 1 January and has set a deadline at the end of March for agreement on a sweeping package of budgetary

BY KATHERINE BUTLER

and policy reforms aimed at preparing the bloc for expansion eastward.

But Mr Fischer said the failure to streamline the EU's decision taking mechanisms ahead of enlargement would drive the bloc into paralysis and collapse. He said the conclusion of the Agenda 2000 spending negotiations in March must be followed by agreement at a summit in Cologne in June on the timing of a new constitutional conference to rewrite the EU's voting rules.

"The key question here is the Union's readiness to accept majority decisions in as many areas as possible," Mr Fischer told MEPs. "The new federal government advocates limiting the need for unanimity in the longer term to questions of fundamental importance such as treaty amendments."

Europe now needs its own constitution, he said, if it is to achieve the "ultimate goal" of political union.

'Penthouse' shock for Frau Schroder

PAYING HOMAGE to Germany's first lady has become a tradition at *Penthouse* magazine. The last time it did so, two years ago, the cartoon honouring Hannelore Kohl provoked the wrath of her husband and landed the publisher of the German edition in court.

Now it is in hot water again for its depiction of Doris Schröder-Köpf, the young woman by the new Chancellor's side. Mrs Schröder tried to slap an injunction on the cartoon, but the writ has been dismissed.

It must be said that Mrs Kohl's picture two years ago probably caused more offence. It portrayed her as the emblem of the Chancellor's official limousine, with Mr Kohl greedily looking on. A pair of blue leather gloves, a string of pearls and a tassel in the German tricolour was all she wore. Her ample beauty was for all to behold.

BY IMRE KARACS
in Bonn

In last month's *Penthouse*, Mrs Schröder is rather more demure, a sash strung across her larger-than-life bosoms, protecting her modesty. This time, the subject had no objection to the artist's improvement of her figure. She was appalled merely by her "distorted" face and exaggerated toothy smile.

Peter Herzberg, the German editor of *Penthouse*, pronounced himself perplexed by her reaction. The picture, he said, was an example of the noble art of caricature, drawing on artistic licence accumulated over centuries. Case dismissed, and the magazine is now allowed to republish the cartoon which, thanks to the controversy, is in any case reaching a broader audience.



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Freetown in flames as rebels retreat

BY JEFF KOINANGE
In Freetown,
ALEX DUVAL SMITH
AND FRAN ABRAMS

REBEL FORCES fleeing Freetown hurriedly yesterday as Nigerian-led intervention troops retook control of the Sierra Leone capital after a week of fighting.

Humanitarian organisations warned of a looming disaster as food runs out and diplomatic efforts progress only slowly. Experts said neighbouring Guinea, which has been inundated by refugees from Sierra Leone, is itself on the verge of collapse from the effects of regional instability.

One small sign of hope was the decision by Ecomog, the Nigerian-led intervention force, to fly the detained rebel leader, Foday Sankoh, to Guinea for talks with mediators.

Sierra Leone's ambassador to Guinea said Mr Sankoh - a prisoner in Nigeria and Sierra Leone for the past two years - went straight into talks with West African foreign ministers, the United Nations and the Sierra Leone government. "He is here in Conakry and is in negotiations," the ambassador



Ali Kamara, said by telephone. He added, however, that Mr Sankoh was "not a free man".

Mr Sankoh's transfer abroad was a key demand of the Sierra Leone rebels - fighting under the banner of the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) - before they would consider a ceasefire or political talks. He was sentenced to death for treason last October.

The RUF seized eastern and central districts of Freetown on 6 January. Ecomog said on Monday its troops had recaptured many areas but reliable independent news from the



Nigerian troops arriving by helicopter in Freetown to reinforce the Ecomog force trying to drive rebels out the Sierra Leone capital. AFP

battle zone was scarce. Witnesses in Freetown said yesterday that bodies "littered the streets" of the capital and rebels burnt houses and cars as they retreated before Ecomog troops. Thousands of people were reportedly trapped in their houses without water, food or electricity.

A Sierra Leone hotel worker provided the first eyewitness account from the rebel-held east of the city after managing to escape the area. "The rebels are burning and destroying everything in sight as they retreat - cars, buildings, every-

thing," said Josephine Gar-nem, 25. "We saw lots of bodies in the streets - civilian and military. It was bad, very bad. For several days nothing to eat or drink... It's getting desperate, people need to go out and get food."

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said they feared for the civilians trapped by the fighting. A spokesman warned: "A humanitarian disaster is looming in the capital unless some kind of ceasefire is arranged and humanitarian

supplies can be brought in." Freetown's population is believed to have ballooned to about a million because of migration from the countryside since civil war began in the small West African country in 1991. When fighting flared in the capital last week the government ordered people to stay in their homes or be shot as rebels.

The RUF's legal representative, Omrie Golley, speaking from the Ivory Coast capital Abidjan, had said before news of Mr Sankoh's transfer to Guinea that the rebels wanted their chief handed over to the

West African mediators. "We want him to be placed in the ministers' moral custody and transferred to a mutually agreed location so talks can begin."

President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah, Sierra Leone's democratically elected leader, said last week that Mr Sankoh had agreed, from his prison, to an immediate ceasefire. But RUF commanders refused to believe him. Mr Golley said there was no evidence that the call - if made at all - was freely entered into.

A Royal Navy frigate, HMS

Norfolk, dispatched to Sierra Leone as a "precautionary measure" last week was due to dock in Senegal yesterday for re-fuelling and then head to the former British colony.

In London, the Foreign Office announced that the arms embargo which led to a furore last year over shipments to Sierra Leone by the British company, Sandline International, had been lifted. It said a new embargo passed by the United Nations and ratified by Britain allowed fuel and weapons to be shipped to the elected government of President Kabbah.

KABBAH'S BATTLES

15 March 1996: Ahmad Tejan Kabbah elected president in the country's first free elections, after five years of civil war.

May 1997: Kabbah overthrown by the army, flees to Guinea. Junta suspends constitution, bans political parties.

June 1997: Nigerian ship bombs the capital, Freetown. Junta calls for truce. Ecomog, the Nigerian-led intervention force, deploys troops.

October 1997: Economic Community of West African States (Ecomog) imposes sanctions. UN imposes oil and arms embargo.

January 1998: Fighting resumes between junta and Ecomog, aided by British mercenary firm Sandline International.

February 1998: Ecomog forces arrive in Freetown. Scandal in UK over Sandline's role.

22 April 1998: Kabbah's civilian regime restored.

4 January 1999: Rebels attack Freetown.

5 January 1999: UK sends £1m aid to anti-rebel forces. Nigerian planes stop rebels entering Freetown.

6 January 1999: Rebels fight their way to within a mile of the centre of Freetown.

7 January 1999: Ecomog troops advance on rebels in Freetown.

10 January 1999: Two Associated Press journalists killed in Freetown.

11 January 1999: Ecomog claims rebels ousted from Freetown.

American planes free to attack Iraqi radar sites

THE UNITED STATES has widened the rules of engagement for aircraft flying over Iraq, allowing them to fire on Iraqi radar sites before they are targeted by them.

The decision represents another escalation in the conflict, with signs growing that a fresh outbreak of violence is

likely. Iraq continues to criticise its neighbours for the backing it says they have given to Washington and London, while American officials hint broadly that they believe the regime is on its last legs.

The US Defense Department said yesterday that planes would be allowed to fire at radar sites even if they were not locking on to allied aircraft. To demonstrate the new tactics, a US aircraft fired a missile at an Iraqi radar site in the no-fly zone over northern Iraq yesterday, the fifth such episode in

the past few weeks. The Pentagon said that, unlike previous such attacks, this was on an early-warning radar site, part of Iraq's integrated air defences. In the other cases, the US and Britain have said that their aircraft were targeted by surface-to-air missiles, and fired back.

"The radar was seen as posing a threat to coalition forces in the area," said a Pentagon spokesman. Previously, early-warning radars were not attacked, though American and British pilots were allowed to fire at them if they felt they posed a threat.

The war of words between

Iraq and its neighbours spread yesterday as the Iraqi parliament accused Kuwait of backing insurgents against the regime.

The Iraqi National Assembly stressed that the governments of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are influential partners to the United States and Britain

through presenting facilities for aggression on Iraq," said the official Iraqi News Agency.

In particular, Kuwait was accused of "financing and supporting acts of killing and terrorism against the Iraqi people and its institutions through receiving agents and betrayers and publishing leaflets

that incite conspiracies on Iraq." The US Defense Secretary, William Cohen, said that Saddam "is lashing out verbally, rhetorically, against the Saudis, against the Egyptians, against the Kuwaitis". He said this "would seem to indicate that he is certainly more agitated and frantic".

Britons 'forced to sign confessions' in Yemen

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE
AND ERIC WATKINS

ALL FIVE Britons being held in Yemen over allegations of a bomb plot have been forced to sign confessions, their families said yesterday.

A spokesman for the families, Rashad Yaqoob, told a press conference he had received the information from an unidentified source in Yemen.

The Foreign Office was last night unable to confirm the reports, as the British consul in Yemen has been allowed only a brief visit to four of the men. The fifth is a dual citizen and considered a Yemeni national by the authorities.

The lawyer representing the men in Yemen has not been able to meet his clients despite having a written order allowing him to do so.

The developments come amid mounting speculation that the three Yemeni gunmen arrested for the kidnapping of 16 Western tourists last month are due to stand trial within the next 48 hours.

Mr Yaqoob denied the five Britons - Shahid Butt, 33, Malik

Nasser Harhar, 26, Samad Ahmed, 21, all from Birmingham, Ghulam Hussein, 25, from Luton, and Mohsin Ghalaib, 18, from London - were linked to a bomb plot. But he did confirm that Mr Ghalaib was the stepson of Abu Hamza, an imam based in London who openly promotes the overthrow of the Yemeni state.

The fury of the families contrasted sharply with the experience of Katherine Brooke, wife of John Brooke, kidnapped by Yemeni tribesmen last week. "I am overwhelmed by all the encouraging messages I have received from the public and for the tremendous help of the Foreign Office and the support of the local police," she said yesterday.

Mr Brooke has told his company by telephone that he is being well treated by the tribesmen.

The families of the five Britons in custody said the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, had failed to contact them since their relatives' arrest before Christmas.

Questions about possible links with Sheikh Hamza and his group, the Supporters of



Rashad Yaqoob: Five not linked to a bomb plot

Shariah, brought angry shouts from the floor, but Monica Davis, wife of Ghulam Hussein, said she had very little knowledge of the cleric.

"I don't know much about him or his group, but I have done my own research and if there were any links with him and terrorism he would have been shut down by the CIA or MI6," she said.

The families warned there would be blood on the streets if any of the men were executed by the Yemenis.

The Yemeni lawyer acting for

the men, Badr Basumaid, said yesterday the police were still refusing him access to his clients, despite obtaining written permission from the Chief Prosecutor of Aden.

"I have no access, it is impossible for me to do my job properly," he said. "There is no reason why I should not have access, but it means that things are now going very slowly."

Yesterday Foreign Office sources said they were investigating reports that the trial might start within 48 hours of three men arrested by security forces after a shoot-out with kidnappers. The hostage-taking led to the murder of three British tourists.

While there are other reports that the trial will not begin until the end of Ramadan - likely to be 18 or 19 January - the British ambassador in Yemen, Vic Henderson, dispatched his vice-consul from the capital, Sanaa, to Aden yesterday to investigate the claims.

Mr Basumaid expressed concern over the possibility of such a trial, saying that those defendants might have been forced to make claims against his own clients.

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IN BRIEF

Cape Town buries Blair protester

THOUSANDS OF mourners marched through Cape Town's townships yesterday to bury a man who died after being hit in the head by a plastic bullet during protests last Friday against Tony Blair's visit. Yusuf Jacobs, 22, was hit during a demonstration over the air strikes on Iraq.

Gang on trial over 17 poisonings

FIFTEEN MEMBERS of a gang went on trial yesterday in Saint Petersburg over the murders of 17 elderly people who were tricked into handing over their flats and then poisoned. The Tikhonov gang are believed to have preyed on poorer pensioners who often sell or swap their flats.

Germans can buy 'clean' car fuel

THE FIRST filling station to sell liquid hydrogen as car fuel opened in Germany yesterday. Deutsche Shell, which launched the fuel in Hamburg said it was three times as potent as petrol and water was its only waste product. Environmentalists doubt that it has many green benefits.

Second Disney park for Paris

BY JOHN LICHFIELD in Paris

DISNEYLAND Paris is expected soon to build a second theme park - similar to Universal Studios' park in Florida. Plans for a £450m movie theme park have been tabled by Euro Disney and a favourable decision is expected shortly by local councils east of Paris.

The new park, part of the original plans for the site, should be open for the 10th anniversary of Disneyland Paris on 12 April 2002.

Development - Val d'Europe, a new town with 1,600 homes, a shopping centre, light industry and 30,000 square metres of offices - is being built.

The president of the syndicate of five local councils in the area, Charles Boetto, said negotiations on the new theme park were well advanced and an announcement could be expected soon. More than 2,000 jobs would be created.

Flynt's revelations on Congress a flop

LARRY FLYNT, the publisher of *Hustler* magazine, promised to deliver devastating revelations about the Congressmen who were trying to nail President Bill Clinton for perjury. His first effort, however, has been something of a damp squib.

Mr Flynt offered up to a million dollars for tales of the great and the good at their worst. He had been ready to release a report on Bob Livingston, the Republican Speaker-designate of the House of Representatives, but then a Washington newsletter beat him to the draw.

Mr Livingston had had a series of affairs, which did not go down well with the Republican party. He resigned, to Mr Flynt's evident disappointment, after heavy pressure from his own colleagues.

Great speculation had built up over the next target. In a televised press conference yesterday, Mr Flynt released the next

BY ANDREW MARSHALL
in Washington

instalment in what will become the *Flynt Report*, a publication that lifts the lid on politicians' private lives.

The name in the frame was certainly suggestive: Bob Barr, a very right-wing Republican from Georgia, who had been demanding the President's impeachment for well over a year. Mr Barr is also one of the managers who will run the impeachment trial of the President in the Senate.

During divorce proceedings against his second wife, Gail Vogel Barr, Mr Barr had refused to answer questions about his liaisons with the woman who would become his third wife, Mr Flynt said. He had used a section of state law that is similar to the Fifth Amendment when asked whether he had been faithful to his wife, according to

court transcripts. Ms Barr also told the Flynt investigators that her husband - a sworn opponent of abortion - took her to have an abortion while they were married, in 1983.

"He drove her to the clinic, he picked her up afterward. He paid for the abortion," said Mr Flynt. Mr Barr put out a statement saying that he had "never suggested, urged, forced or encouraged anyone to have an abortion".

Partly because it had been so heavily hyped in advance, and partly because it was less than spectacular, the first part of the Flynt report failed to galvanise much press reaction.

The mainstream media has also been sniffy about the whole affair, since it regards Mr Flynt as simply a pornographer. *The Washington Post* relegated the story to page seven, and it was written by the paper's media correspondent, not one of the po-

litical staff. The US broadsheet press traditionally treats its politicians with great deference.

Yet there is something of an irony in the story. The point of the revelations was to show Mr Barr as a hypocrite, who defends family values while marrying three times - not to tell lurid tales of his sexual affairs. There is nothing salacious about the report, certainly much less than the Starr report into President Clinton. It was entirely appropriate to focus on whether Mr Barr had told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, since that is what is at issue with President Clinton.

Mr Flynt says he has a bigger fish to fry, though as he failed to garner the headlines with his first report, it remains to be seen what he can do now. His next expose will include a videotape of a politician with a woman who is not his wife, and there is more to come.



President Bill Clinton dances with Amanda Fernandez, wife of Argentina's minister of economy and public services, during a dinner at the White House to mark the state visit by Carlos Menem, President of Argentina. Reuters

Everyday tale of the missing car syndrome

AMERICAN TIMES

CENTURY CITY SHOPPING CENTRE, LA

WE HAVE all been there. Somewhere in the bowels of the underground car park at Century City Shopping Centre in west Los Angeles, a woman with shoulder-length blond hair walks into the parking office looking agitated. "I can't find my car," she tells the duty officer. "I came in from Constitution Avenue, turned left and parked almost straight away, but the thing just isn't there any more."

The duty officer looks calm. "You're one floor too high. My colleague will show you," he says and escorts her to an electric golf cart for a free ride to be reunited with her vehicle.

This car park employs a special team of officials and security guards, dedicated to helping shoppers find their way back to their cars - one of the many extremes of urban living with Los Angeles throws up.

"People are in a hurry, or have their mind on something else, and all of a sudden they can't remember whether they are in Red Bay 3D or Green Bay 5F," explains Linda Frost, marketing manager for Century City, near Beverly Hills. "They are all convinced they are stupid, but we tell them it happens all the time."

"We ask them how they drove in, how far they drove, that sort of thing. If that doesn't work, we ask them where they went shopping, whether their first stop was Macy's, or Crate and Barrel, or an ice-cream. The trick is to keep calm."

Walk around a large Los Angeles car park - this shopping centre's holds 3,000 cars, and some can take two or three times that number - and at regular intervals you will find sad figures staring quizzically into the middle distance and muttering words to the effect of: "I could have sworn that was the pink wall I noticed as I was locking up."

According to Ms Frost, not only can people not remember where their car is, they frequently cannot recall what colour it is - a symptom, no doubt, of that other LA phenomenon, multiple-vehicle households.

The Missing Car syndrome will be familiar to viewers of Quentin Tarantino's latest movie, *Jackie Brown*, in which two lowlifes played by Robert De Niro and Bridget Fonda run out of a giant LA mall supposedly with a bag full of loot only to find themselves utterly incapable of locating the get-

away car in the football-stadium sized open-air lot.

It's tempting to take the patronising view that only ditsy southern Californian suburbanites could be so dumb as to forget where they left the car. But even the most educated Angelenos are prone to the syndrome. The labyrinthine underground complex beneath UCLA, the city's main university, has one of the highest lost-car casualty rates. As do a number of the large cinema complexes where critics and honoured guests are invited to preview screenings of forthcoming movies.

At an evening press screening of *Saving Private Ryan*, which took place a few months ago right opposite the Century City shopping centre, one prominent LA journalist was so shaken by



It was somewhere over there next to a blue one

the film's battle scenes that the only way he could find his car afterwards was to wait for the rest of the audience to drive out of the underground car park and trek forlornly from floor to floor, scanning the few remaining vehicles.

There are technicians known as "parking lot scientists" who spend their lives trying to take the forbidding edge off vast underground or high-rise structures. The Westside Pavilion, not far from Century City, uses flower names rather than colour codes. Disneyland in Anaheim has a Mickey Zone, a Minnie Zone and so on.

In the beach city of Santa Monica, the authorities had the brainwave of building a series of smaller, more manageable multi-storey car parks around the mall and open-air promenade. But that approach has another, equally dangerous drawback. People might remember where inside the car park they parked; the problem is they frequently can't remember in which particular car park they parked.

ANDREW GUMBEL

ANNE MCELVOY

We live now with the consequences of kicking Commie ass in Afghanistan

IN THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW PAGE 3

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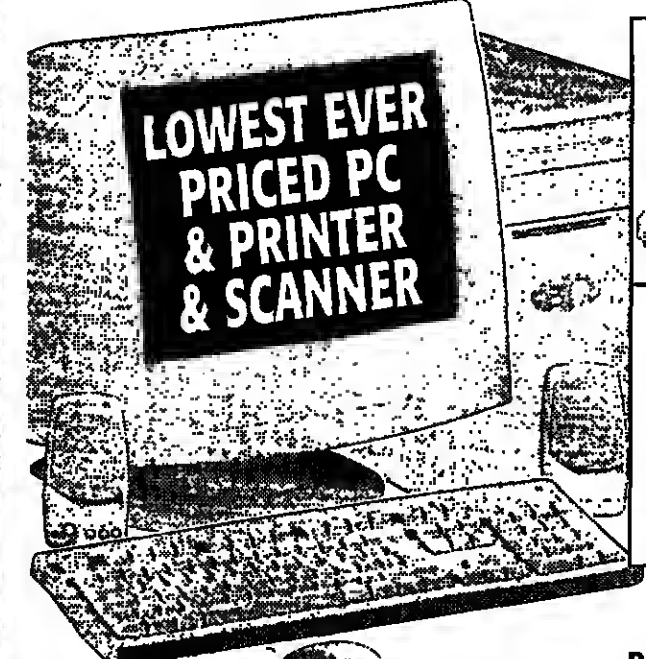
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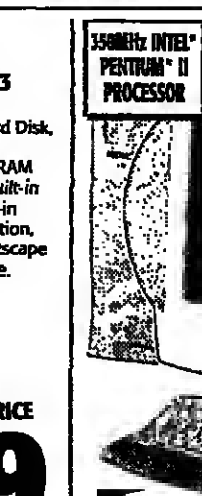


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BUSINESS

BRIEFING

BA links with Japanese carrier

BRITISH AIRWAYS and Japan Airlines will today unveil a wide-ranging link-up bringing together the two biggest carriers in Europe and Asia. BA and JAL are to form a marketing alliance that will enable the two airlines to code-share, link their frequent-flyer programmes and share airport facilities.

The agreement could be a prelude to JAL becoming a full member of the Oneworld alliance BA forged with four other international carriers last year. The aim of the BA-JAL link-up is to boost passengers and revenues at a time when air travel is slowing down.

Deep recession 'unlikely'



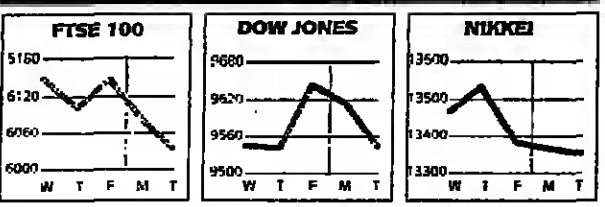
EDDIE GEORGE (left), Governor of the Bank of England, said last night that the Bank's next economic forecasts, due out in early February, were unlikely to show the UK slipping into deep recession. He told the Institute of Manufacturing: "Frankly, I'd be surprised if our central projection were to suggest that the economy as a whole was falling into steep or protracted recession."

However, Mr George warned that the global economic slowdown could mean more pain for manufacturers in Britain. He stressed the Monetary Policy Committee would not hesitate to cut interest rates again if it believed inflation was likely to fall below the target.

Sears to sell credit card arm

SEARS is expected to announce today the sale of its in-store credit card subsidiary, Creation Financial Services, in a deal expected to be worth £120m. The buyer is thought to be a financial institution. Analysts said a sale could help the retailing and home shopping group disengage shareholders from agreeing to another bid from Philip Green, whose businesses include the Mark One and Owen Owen fashion chains.

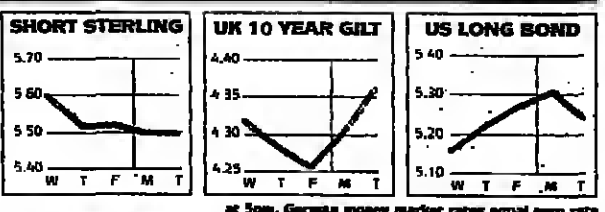
STOCK MARKETS



INDICES

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6033.50	-51.40	-0.85	6195.50	4599.20	2.67
FTSE 250	4977.10	-4.90	-0.10	5070.90	4247.60	3.32
FTSE 350	2843.30	-21.00	-0.73	2969.10	2210.40	2.77
FTSE All Share	2743.33	-19.40	-0.70	2886.52	2143.53	2.82
FTSE SmallCap	2139.80	-1.70	-0.08	2293.80	1834.40	3.76
FTSE Fledgling	1180.50	-8.80	-0.75	1517.10	1046.20	4.23
FTSE AIM	612.80	-3.50	-0.57	1146.90	761.30	1.24
FTSE Europe 100	2823.00	-35.92	-1.27	3079.27	2018.15	3.02
FTSE Europe 300	1215.91	-12.23	-1.00	1332.07	880.83	1.02
Dow Jones	9542.91	-83.16	-0.86	9647.96	7400.30	1.60
Nikkei	13360.97	-7.51	-0.06	17352.95	12727.50	1.09
Hang Seng	10711.56	-77.29	-0.72	11926.16	6544.79	3.23
Dax	5200.10	-70.50	-1.34	6217.83	3833.71	1.85
S&P 500	1250.62	-14.02	-1.11	1278.05	912.83	1.26
Nasdaq	2343.25	-44.82	-1.91	2384.72	1957.09	0.30
Toronto 300	6781.90	-55.21	-0.81	7822.10	5350.90	1.60
Brazil Bovespa	5944.67	-457.74	-7.71	12339.14	4275.69	0.99
Belgium Bel20	3496.83	-43.47	-1.23	3713.21	2357.78	1.87
Amsterdam AEX	536.24	-9.53	-1.75	600.65	366.58	1.83
France CAC 40	4100.70	-101.20	-2.41	4404.94	2809.73	1.97
Milan MIB30	35801.00	-932.00	-2.54	39170.00	24175.00	1.13
Madrid IBS35	10010.50	-238.10	-2.32	10989.80	6869.90	1.84
Irish Allshare	5234.06	-44.05	-0.84	5581.70	3732.57	1.38
S Korea Comp	631.18	-9.76	-1.52	651.95	277.37	0.96
Australia ASX	2948.30	-3.10	-0.11	2992.90	2366.70	3.13

INTEREST RATES

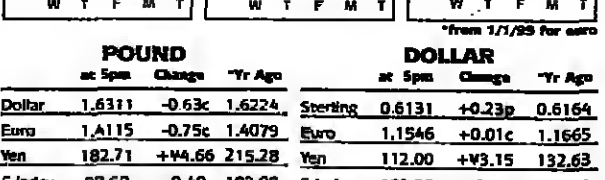


Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.92	5.92	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
US	5.06	5.06	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18
Japan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Germany	3.19	3.19	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12

MONEY MARKET RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.92	5.92	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
US	5.06	5.06	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18
Japan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Germany	3.19	3.19	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12

CURRENCIES



Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.92	5.92	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
US	5.06	5.06	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18
Japan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Germany	3.19	3.19	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.92	5.92	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
US	5.06	5.06	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18
Japan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Germany	3.19	3.19	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12

TOURIST RATES

Index	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year	3 year	5 year	10 year	15 year	30 year
UK	5.92	5.92	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45	5.45
US	5.06	5.06	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18	5.18
Japan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
Germany	3.19	3.19	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12	3.12

Allied Domecq profits warning rocks market

THERE WAS fresh evidence of a downturn in consumer spending yesterday when Allied Domecq, the spirits and pubs group, issued a profits warning due to a poor performance in its pubs division.

The group, whose interests span Beefeater gin, Baskin Robbins ice cream and the Big Steak pub chain, cited "eroding consumer confidence", which it said had intensified since last summer. It said the downturn was particularly marked over the Christmas period with drinks sales falling, although food sales had held up.

The warning knocked 14 per cent per cent from Allied's share price, prompting a raft of profit downgrades from brokers and depressing share prices

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

elsewhere in the pubs and brewing sector. Shares in Bass and Scottish & Newcastle fell sharply while Whitbread closed lower ahead of a trading update today.

"What we are seeing is some of the dark side of the change of pubs into places to have a meal," said John Wakeley, analyst at Lehman Brothers. "Restaurants are much more cyclically sensitive... and clearly a large part of the UK is suffering in terms of consumer confidence."

There was more bad news elsewhere in the sector, where the Old English Pub company announced that it had become

a corporate victim of the flu outbreak sweeping Britain. The group, which operates "rustic" inns with accommodation, partly blamed the outbreak for a 2.9 per cent fall in like-for-like sales over Christmas. "We were hit by the epidemic, which resulted in several cancellations over Christmas and New Year," the company said. Trading was also affected by a move away from alcoholic beverages towards soft drinks, it said. Corporate bookings were down over the extended holiday period.

The Allied warning rocked a sector which had appeared to be recovering after upbeat statements last week from pub groups JD Wetherspoon and Yates Brothers Wine Lodges.

Allied's pubs operate under brand names such as Firkin, Scruffy Murphy's, Mr Q's and Big Steak. The group said food sales had held up well in pubs such as the Big Steak outlets, but drinks sales had weakened and customer numbers fallen. The company said: "Early evidence shows that our performance has mirrored the market trend in the pre-Christmas months. Sales were lower over the Christmas period, and first-half profits will therefore be lower as a result."

There was better news in spirits, where Allied said there had been some growth in major markets in the first four months of its financial year. In Europe, Ballantine's scotch whisky volumes grew strongly and Beefeater gin did well. Trading

in Mexico has been difficult due to duty rises, illegal bottling and tough economic conditions. The group defended its decision to sell Cantrell & Cochrane, its Irish cider and soft drinks business, which was sold to BC Partners Venture Capital for £519m.

Allied, whose talks with Seagram of Canada to create a wine and spirits alliance foundered last year, further hinted that talks between the two - and others in the industry - could be revived.

"There is little doubt in our minds that a combination with another group, with the right management team, would undoubtedly result in substantial synergies," said Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman.

Arjo chief quits in radical revamp

Arjo chief quits in radical revamp

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

ARJO WIGGINS Appleton yesterday announced a radical shakeup that saw the troubled paper maker part company with its chief executive, split into three divisions and hint that it would be willing to entertain offers for two of them. Under the restructuring, which is designed to revive the group's flagging share price, Arjo will abandon its geographical structure in favour of three industrial divisions or organised around its carbonless and thermal paper, specialty and coated paper, and merchandising divisions.

Arjo said that as a result it no longer needed a group chief executive, so Philippe Beylier had agreed to step down. Mr Beylier, chief executive for less than two years, was on a two-year contract and is expected to receive a payoff of more than £800,000. Ken Minton, the non-executive chairman who designed the new structure, will take on a full-time role.

Meanwhile Luca Paveri-Fontana, a non-executive director, will also take on an executive role in a sign that IRI, the Italian holding company controlled by the Agnelli family that is Arjo's main shareholder, is taking a more active role in the company.

"We must achieve value for shareholders," Mr Minton said. "To achieve this we must reorganise the business in a different way."

The restructuring will see Arjo combine its operations in Europe and the United States to create two international paper divisions. Arjo said the merger would cut costs, although it gave no indication of savings or job losses.

Mr Minton hinted that in the long term Arjo wanted to concentrate on its specialty and coated papers division. Meanwhile the carbonless and thermal unit, which supplies credit-card slips and fax paper, could be sold. "We will equip ourselves to take the value from that business sooner or later," Mr Minton said. He also hinted that the merchandising division could be merged with a rival.

City observers said the shakeup would allow investors better to judge the value of Arjo's component parts. The announcement was greeted with a 5.5p rise in the share price to 115p. Six months ago the shares were at 254p.

Mr Minton said the integration between the various parts of the company had been "somewhat limited" since 1990, when Arjo was created by the merger of French, British and American paper makers. But he stressed that the business would now be run on an international basis and that each division would have to justify new investments by showing they could earn a return in excess of their cost of capital.



Beylier: Will step down as group chief executive



Prince Ado Ibrahim (left), new owner of 25 per cent of the Arrows grand prix team, pictured with Tom Walkinshaw

Arrows team driven to £110m sellout

THE Arrows grand prix motor racing team was sold yesterday to a consortium led by a German bank and a Nigerian prince in a deal valuing the business at £110m.

Tom Walkinshaw, a former engineering director for Benetton who took control of the Arrows team in 1996, has formed a new partnership with Morgan Grenfell Private Equity (part of Deutsche Bank) and the Niger-

ian businessman, Prince Malik Ado Ibrahim.

Morgan Grenfell, which bought the Coral bookmakers chain from Ladbrokes for £300m last month, will emerge with a 45 per cent stake in Arrows, while Prince Malik will own a further 25 per cent.

Mr Walkinshaw, who has run Arrows from his TWR group

based near Oxford, will retain a 25 per cent stake. The remaining 5 per cent has been reserved for management and employees.

This is the second time a City institution has bought into a motor racing team. Last year the US-based venture capital and fund management group, Warburg Pincus, acquired a 40 per cent stake in the Jordan team.

Observers said the Arrows deal had been driven by Mr Walkinshaw's need to bring cash into the business. At the end of last season its leading driver, Pedro Diniz, left the team, taking with him a reported £2m in sponsorship. The year before the former world champion, Damon Hill, left to join Jordan.

Prince Malik, 38, is the third son of a Nigerian tribal king. He

holds licences to operate mobile phone and Internet services in Nigeria and recently brokered the sale of Lotus cars of Norwich to Proton of Malaysia.

Mr Walkinshaw said the buy-out would provide financial security and allow the Arrows team to remain in Britain. Its leading driver this season is the Finn, Mika Salo, and there is speculation it will sign a Japanese driver, Toranosuka Takagi.

Japan buys dollars to curb yen

THE DOLLAR soared against the yen yesterday, recording its largest one-day gain in five years, after the Bank of Japan spent up to £3bn in the foreign exchange markets.

Traders said the central bank had been buying dollars and selling yen in an attempt to curb the strength of the Japanese currency. Japan's government is concerned that the recent rise in the yen - which hit a 28-month high on Monday - could undermine the competitiveness of leading manufacturers.

This was the first time the BoJ had bought dollars in the

BY LEA PATERSON

foreign exchange market since early 1996. Dealers speculated that the move had cost the Japanese authorities between £1.5bn and £3bn.

The BoJ did not confirm or deny the intervention reports, but comments by the finance minister, Kiichi Miyazawa, were taken as a signal that the Bank had been active in the financial markets. Mr Miyazawa said that "government experts have taken steps" following the yen's rapid rise against the dollar.

In early trading, the dollar

recorded its largest one-day gain against the yen since 1993, traders said. The US currency pared some of its gains later after Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, said the dollar policy was unchanged. In early New York trading the dollar was at 112 yen, up more than 3 yen from Monday's close.

Analysts said several factors lay behind the yen's surge, including worries about the impact of the Brazilian crisis on the US, the reluctance of Japanese investors to save money overseas and the large Japanese current account sur-

plus. Experts predicted the BoJ would be forced to intervene again in coming days. Michael Lewis at Deutsche Bank said: "This looks like the first of many skirmishes between the Bank of Japan and the currency markets."

Avinash Persaud at JP Morgan said: "As long as investors shy away from the markets, current accounts will drive exchange rates. I see the dollar testing 105 yen again."

The euro benefited from the BoJ intervention, rising 4 yen in New York trade. The surge in the euro coincided with a

survey of fund managers predicting the new currency would be the world's strongest in 1999. According to the survey by Merrill Lynch/Gallup, 81 per cent of fund managers expect the euro to be the world's strongest currency this year. Three-quarters expect sterling to weaken against the euro.

Trevor Greetham, Merrill Lynch global strategist, said: "Fund managers love the euro because the alternatives don't look good. The dollar is weak, Japan has structural problems and falling base rates reduce sterling's attractiveness."

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

FOOTSE SWUNG from a 55.3-point gain to a 51.4 loss to end at 6,033.6 in a busy day with turnover topping 12 billion shares. Supporting indices suffered single-figure falls.

Profit warnings did much of the damage, with Allied Domecq plunging 81.5p to 516p and pulling Bass down 74.5p to 808p. ICI bucked the trend, gaining 27p to 513.5p on talk of American interest. Dixons, ahead of today's results, jumped 33p to a 914p peak.

Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

US STOCKS fell for the first time in eight days, amid profit-taking and continued worries about the Brazilian economy. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was trading sharply lower in afternoon trading, down 83 points at 9536.48.

"One trader said the fall was a 'necessary pull-back' in the Dow, which has posted record gains since the beginning of the year. The Nasdaq index also fell, trading down just over 2 per cent at 2334.21 at lunchtime.

TOKYO

LEADING JAPANESE shares closed little changed yesterday after the rebound in the dollar eased concerns about the competitiveness of Japanese exporters.

The Nikkei 225 index closed down 7.51 points, or 0.6 per cent. Dealers attributed the mini-recovery to direct intervention by the Bank of Japan in the foreign exchange markets. The Bank of Japan bought dollars and sold yen in an attempt to curb the strength of the Japanese currency.

FRANKFURT

GERMAN STOCKS edged 1 per cent lower over concern that banks could be hit by exposure to both the troubled Brazilian economy and the failed Chinese trust CITIC. The benchmark Dax Xetra closed down 70.34 points at 5,196.13, with financial stocks extending Monday's losses.

Shares in Dresdner Bank, Germany's third largest, dropped 2.10 euros to 39.50, while Deutsche Bank shed 1.68 euros to close at 53.92.

SAO PAULO

BRAZILIAN SHARES plunged yet again yesterday, with the stock market close to circuit-breaker limits as concerns persisted over the decision of the state of Minas Gerais to default on its debt to the government.

In early afternoon trade, the Bovespa index was down 8.9 per cent at 5,835 points, and reassuring comments from Washington did little to halt the persistent speculation over a possible devaluation of the Brazilian real.

Arjo
chief
quits in
radical
revamp

Why yen's revival should concern us

IT IS A touch ironic that the currency markets yesterday responded to calls from Keizo Obuchi, Japan's Prime Minister, for stability in exchange rates by delivering the biggest one-day rise in the dollar against the yen in five years. It was what the Bank of Japan wanted when it spent billions on intervention in an attempt to halt the painful rise in the yen since last summer. But is this really what is meant by stability? Hardly.

Over the past four years the yen-dollar exchange rate has been all over the place. During the summer the yen was so weak that Tokyo actually became an affordable holiday destination. Since then it has risen by nearly a third in value - which is far too much for struggling Japanese exporters.

As that swing followed the loss of about four-fifths of its value between April 1995 and last summer, however, you can see why yen stability and even exchange rate "target zones", as mooted by Mr Obuchi on his tour of Europe this week, would appeal to the Japanese government. These are damaging swings even for the strongest economy, and Japan certainly is not that. Why is it happening, and what



OUTLOOK

is its importance to us here in the West? Curiously, given how badly a strong yen would damage economic recovery in Japan, the Japanese authorities have themselves been encouraging the yen's recent rise, again in the name of stability. Eisuke Sakakibara - "Mr Yen" - has been talking the dollar down in recent weeks because it had earlier looked as though the yen was falling too far, too fast.

Even so, most economists would have urged the government to stick with a weak yen policy. The trough of 146.52 yen to the dollar is more or less where currency experts think it ought to be given the fundamental weakness of the Japanese econ-

omy. So why has the trend been back to high ground? One possible cause is that the Japanese have begun repatriating money from the US. There are two reasons why they might do this. The greatest chunk of Japanese overseas indirect investment is in US Treasuries, which have had a terrific bull run in recent years. Plainly this cannot go on forever, and as doubts grow about the sustainability of the US economic miracle, as well as the whopping current account deficit America runs with the rest of the world, now seems as good a time as any to sell.

Secondly, long-bond yields have doubled in Japan in the past four months. They are still tiny by Western standards, but if product and asset prices are falling, as they are in Japan, Japanese government bonds certainly begin to look much better value than they did. A flight of capital to the perceived safety of the Japanese motherland spells big trouble for the US, which seems to be living more and more on borrowed foreign money. The arrival of the euro as an alternative reserve currency further turns up the heat.

More worrying still, the US current account deficit is growing like topsy. This year it could be heading

for a mind-boggling \$300bn, equivalent to 4 per cent of GDP. Basic laws of economics dictate that the currency must fall to compensate for this, and this indeed is what is beginning to happen. Unfortunately, dollar weakness could also trigger inflationary pressures within the US economy, and that might bring the boom quite quickly to an end.

What's bad for Japan may therefore be bad for the US too. But even the mighty Alan Greenspan cannot buck the market for ever, and while some of the more apocalyptic predictions of these trends look a tad exaggerated, we are obviously heading for quite dangerous waters.

Arjo Wiggins

CALLING THE bottom on a sinking share price can be a hazardous business. When a company in trouble protests that things cannot possibly get any worse, they usually can - and do. But Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the paper maker, which yesterday announced plans to split itself into three divisions, could just be an exception to the rule.

Not that the owners are good. Arjo

is a textbook example of how mergers - especially cross-border ones - go wrong. The trouble started in 1990 when Wiggins Teape of the UK joined forces with its American rival Appleton, both of which had been spun off from BAT in its successful attempt to fend off a breakup bid from Sir Jimmy Goldsmith.

A year later they were joined by a French partner, Arjo Mari-Prioux. But the businesses were never integrated properly and continued to be run as fiefdoms inside a loose structure. So when paper prices bombed, Arjo was left with a much higher cost base than its rivals.

As a result, this *menage a trois* has destroyed shareholder value on an epic scale. Since the original merger, £1.5bn of capital has been sunk into a business which is now capitalised at just £919m. This decade, Arjo shares have lagged the rest of the market by a staggering 80 per cent.

So can Ken Minton succeed where others have failed? The former chief executive of Laporte, the chemicals group, is reorganising Arjo into three divisions in a belated attempt to squeeze out some cost savings. The declining carbonless and thermal division, which makes

paper used in credit card slips and fax machines, and the merchanting unit will then probably be sold, leaving Arjo to concentrate on premium fine, speciality and coated papers. Chief executive Philippe Beylier is surplus to requirements and walks out with the customary payoff.

Arjo's accounts will be stained with plenty of red ink before the process is complete. But if Mr Minton succeeds, the potential upside is big - analysts reckon a buyer would be willing to pay £800m for the merchanting division alone. Regardless of the history, investors may find it worth their while to take another look at Arjo.

Vickers/Giat

THE BARON from Brussels has pulled off another deal, but will it be enough to get Vickers firing on all cylinders? The agreement to put the group's Challenger tanks business into a joint venture with French tank manufacturer Giat shows that Vickers's chief executive is determined not to be outmanoeuvred as Europe's defence industry consolidates.

But has Baron Paul Buysse

picked the best partner? Giat is still state-owned, which means that it is almost certainly not as fighting fit as Vickers's defence business. What's more, the two companies' manufacturing facilities have carefully been left out of the new joint venture, thus depriving them of the opportunity to take out big lumps of cost.

On the other hand, Vickers and Giat will collaborate on the development of new products, which presumably means the next main battle tanks for Europe's armies. Meanwhile the Challenger and Giat's Leclerc tank will continue to fight it out for what export orders there are in far-off places where they are still buying such things. As the market now ascribes virtually no value to Vickers defence business - indeed the entire group is not capitalised at much more than its existing cash pile - the Giat deal cannot hurt.

What Vickers really needs is to persuade more of Europe's 20 land-fighting vehicle manufacturers to come to the party. Or better still, an order or two. It is in there battling for tank deals in Greece, South Africa and Qatar. Just one order would lift the shares. Unfortunately, Leclerc is fighting for exactly the same orders, too.

News Analysis: US Internet stocks are soaring as investors seek the new Microsoft



In 1994 Yahoo! founders Jerry Yang (back left) and David Filo (front right) were just Net nerds. They, along with (left to right) Tim Koogle, Gary Valenzuela and Jeff Mallett, now run a \$41bn market cap behemoth

From Net nerds to kings of the Nasdaq

SO IT IS fashionable these days to buy Internet stocks. You know this because they keep rising at rates that beggar belief. Witness the recent gravity-defying ascent of the technology-laden Nasdaq Index in New York, only interrupted yesterday by a bout of profit taking.

It is also fashionable to warn that the Internet is a bubble ready to burst and that wise investors will keep their distance. But is that right? Are we in a midst of a revolution so important that most of us just have trouble grasping it?

"The Internet," *Fortune* magazine says, "is the foundation of the new industrial order". This smacks of hyperbole, but there are investors out there who believe it. What they see is a crossing of a great divide, where the Internet is no longer the domain of the digerati, but is suddenly becoming mainstream. The Internet, in other words, has transcended being a toy for nerds and become the high street of the new millennium.

Never mind, then, that some companies leading the Nasdaq charge have yet to make one cent of profit, such as Amazon.com, the red-hot online book and CD retailer. If consumers are about to plunge en masse into the digital universe, the potential for profits down the road is almost unimaginable. With stakes so high, battle has been engaged between the players who want to harness that traffic and control it.

You do not have to search far to see the signs of this explosion. According to International Data Corp, a computer research group, the number of

people using the World Wide Web in the US alone is set to soar by 28 per cent this year alone to 147 million.

People log on for many reasons. There are chat rooms to visit, information pages giving the latest weather and travel reports, and lonely hearts forums. Most dazzling, however, is the rush to the Web to shop: 16 per cent of US car buyers now go online to check and compare bargains. True, many still go to a showroom to make their final purchase, but for how much longer?

The surge in online retailing was never more vividly demonstrated than during this last Christmas gift-buying season. Consider the story of eBay, an online auction house, which listed as a public company last September. eBay is only one of a myriad newly-listed Internet companies to have seen its value climb to the stratosphere very quickly. In four months its shares have soared 1,519 per cent. At that rate, the company promises to deliver a 1 million per cent annual return on investment.

It is a tale that is even more extraordinary when you consider how it started. Ebay founder Pierre Omidyar, 31, had the idea of offering auctions in the Internet after searching for a way to help his girlfriend expand her collection of Pez dispensers - those cute toys that spit out oblong sweeties. Omidyar's salary last year was a modest \$67,446, but the company gave him stock worth - wait for it - \$4bn. The market

value of eBay is now six times that of its non-virtual auction house great-uncle, Sotheby's.

Such value comparisons offer another illustration of the fabulousness - or the insanity - of the investor rush to these companies. Amazon.com gained no fewer than 1 million new customers in the run-up to Christmas. If it operated in bricks-and-mortar shops it would have had to have shelves extending 101 miles to accommodate the books and CDs sold at Christmas. Its market capitalisation now stands at \$29bn, compared with \$16.5bn for Sears, the department store that has been in the retail business for more than a century.

Or how about Yahoo!, the Internet directory company that went public in April 1996? Since then its shares have risen 95-fold to give the company a market value of \$40.9bn, larger even than such blue-chip monoliths as Boeing and Xerox. Was expectations of better-than-expected earnings due out from Yahoo! after the close of markets last night that drove the Nasdaq to its seventh consecutive record high on Monday, although the index fell back sharply yesterday amidst profit taking. On Monday Yahoo! shares rose \$70 1/2 to \$414 1/2.

Yahoo! is one of four Internet stocks gaining special investor attention because of their status as so-called Internet portals. If controlling traffic in cyberspace is the main prize, then it is the portals that have a head start. Like its three main competitors - Lycos, Excite and Infoseek - Yahoo! offers consumers a single web page from which they can begin their

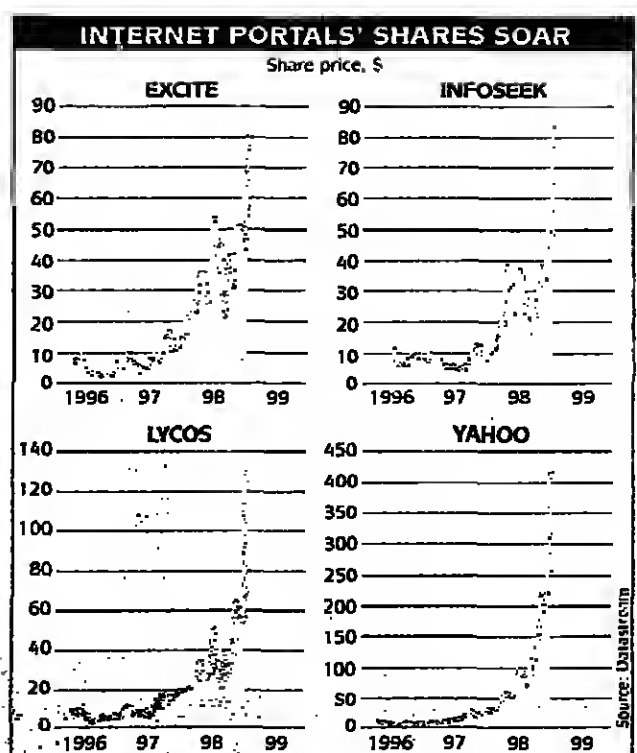
Internet journeys. They offer direct, one-click access to the most travelled areas of the Net, such as news, personal finance, sports, travel, entertainment, recreation, romance chat rooms and so forth.

Whoever attracts the largest numbers of users to their portal page stands one day to rule the Internet. So far Yahoo! is winning the race. Showing that it well understands this, Disney yesterday launched a portal of its own. Called GO Network, it is a joint venture with Infoseek, which is 43 per cent Disney-owned.

As the primacy of the portals in cyberspace becomes more obvious so, in turn, does their attractiveness to advertisers - and their potential for making profits. With 70 million people hitting Yahoo! every month, no wonder advertisers are beginning to pay attention. According to Jupiter Communications, another Web research group, advertising on the Internet is set to rise from a fairly modest \$940m in the US in 1997 to \$6bn by 2002.

Those pouring money into Yahoo! and other darling stocks of the Internet are all looking for the new Microsoft. Those holding back are wondering how long these outlandish valuations can last. Who knows?

There is one other factor in favour of the bubble growing before it bursts. There are simply not enough Internet stocks out there. Paul Cook, manager in New York of the Munder Net Fund, says: "There are too many people who want to own these stocks and not enough to go around. The opportunity is open-ended".



Halifax bids to halt loan slump

HALIFAX YESTERDAY made a fresh attempt to rebuild its share of the mortgage lending market by issuing its lowest-ever fixed-rate loans. Customers will now be able to fix rates at 4.45 per cent for two years.

Halifax, which last year saw its share of the mortgage market shrink to 6 per cent, less than one-third of its usual level, is also offering to fix loans at 6.25 per cent for as long as 10 years.

The move will help prevent customers from defecting to other lenders in order to take advantage of cut-price deals made possible by unprecedented falls in long-term interest rates. In 1998, remortgages made up 25 per cent of the mortgage market, compared with 15 per cent in 1997.

BY ANDREW VERITY

While Halifax is not offering the cheapest deal in the market, it is competing with a rate of 3.99 per cent on offer from Alliance & Leicester. The lowest two-year fix is 2.99 per cent from West Bromwich building society.

The cheapest deals are only made possible by hefty "trailer penalties" - redemption penalties that tie customers in for years after the fixed-rate period is over. The typical redemption penalty is 5 per cent of the sum repaid.

Without the trailer penalties, Halifax charges 6.2 per cent for a two-year fix. West Bromwich offers 4.99 per cent - but customers must pay a sizeable application fee of 0.35 per cent of the loan.

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£50,000 - £199,999	6.53	5.22	6.34	5.07
£200,000 - £499,999	6.56	5.25	6.37	5.10
£500,000 - £999,999	6.61	5.29	6.42	5.13
£1,000,000+	6.78	5.42	6.58	5.26

BALANCE	INT. PAID YEARLY GROSS/NETX		INT. PAID MONTHLY GROSS/NETX	
	NETX	GROSS	NETX	GROSS
£1 - £49,999	6.00	4.80	5.84	4.67
£50,000 - £199,999	6.03	4.82	5.87	4.70
£200,000 - £499,999	6.06	4.85	5.90	4.72
£500,000 - £999,999	6.10	4.88	5.94	4.75
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16/MANAGED FUNDS

THE INDEPENDENT
Wednesday 13 January 1999

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Greeting cards are just a pawn in the banana game

PRODUCERS OF greeting cards yesterday sent an unpleasant message to the US and the European Union, branding them "bananas" for using the industry as a pawn in the latest trade dispute.

The Greeting Cards Association warned that thousands of jobs were threatened because

BY ANDREW VERITY

the US wants to slap a 100 per cent import duty on the cards as a weapon in the dispute over banana import duties.

Ray Cousins, chairman of the association, said: "We are merely a pawn in a much bigger game. Greetings cards has

been picked at random - it could have been anyone. People are very concerned because it is now clear this could become bogged down in bureaucracy and go on for months."

The US is also targeting the duty on other European Union imports worth half a billion euros (£700m). Industries

affected include cashmere sweaters, batteries, plastics, biscuits, bath oils, candles, lithographs, bed linen, cartons, wallets, handbags and cheese. Under US proposals, sanctions would start on 3 March.

UK industries would be hardest hit. In the cashmere industry, 700 jobs may be at risk

in the Scottish borders. The DTT estimates 2,700 British jobs could be at risk.

The banana war blew up because the US was dissatisfied with a new EU regime for banana imports, introduced on 1 January. The regime was created to answer World Trade Organisation concerns that it

protected imports from ex-colonies at the expense of US banana exporters such as Chiquita. The US claims that the regime is still too restrictive.

Yesterday, the WTO's Disputes Settlements Body in Geneva decided to reconvene its "bananas panel" to rule on

the EU's banana regime, a move the US had tried to block.

"We believe the sanctions are illegal because there has been no ruling about them in international law," said a spokesman for Sir Leon Brittan, EU trade commissioner.

Brian Wilson, trade minister at the DTT, said: "It is quite

wrong for one member of the WTO to decide unilaterally that another member has not complied. This dispute needs to be resolved in the framework of the WTO."

Ironically, the two biggest players in UK greetings cards, Hallmark and Carlton, are US-owned.

Vickers links with Giat in tank venture

THE RESTRUCTURING of Europe's fighting vehicles industry took a further step forward yesterday after Vickers, makers of the Challenger 2 tank, announced plans to form a joint venture company with the state-owned French tank manufacturer Giat.

The alliance will cover sales and marketing, future product design and programme management but there are no plans for the time being to include the two companies' manufacturing facilities.

Nor does the agreement prevent either Vickers or Giat linking up with other manufacturers of land vehicles in their respective countries.

The Vickers-Giat deal follows an earlier merger between the land vehicles businesses of GKN and Alvis. Since then there has been speculation about whether Vickers would join the GKN-Alvis alliance or seek a partner in Europe or the

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

United States. A memorandum of intent signed yesterday paves the way for Vickers and Giat to form a joint venture company. But they will continue to operate separately in countries where the Challenger 2 is competing with the Giat's Lercier main battle tank for orders.

The two companies are vying for an order from Greece worth up to £1.5bn for 250 tanks. There are also competitions taking place to supply South Africa and Qatar with tanks, orders worth £350m and £250m respectively.

Jacques Loppion, chief executive of Giat Industries, said the agreement would accelerate the consolidation process taking place in Europe. There are 20 manufacturers of land defence vehicles whereas most analysts believe the market can only support five or six in the longer term.

The agreement is the second

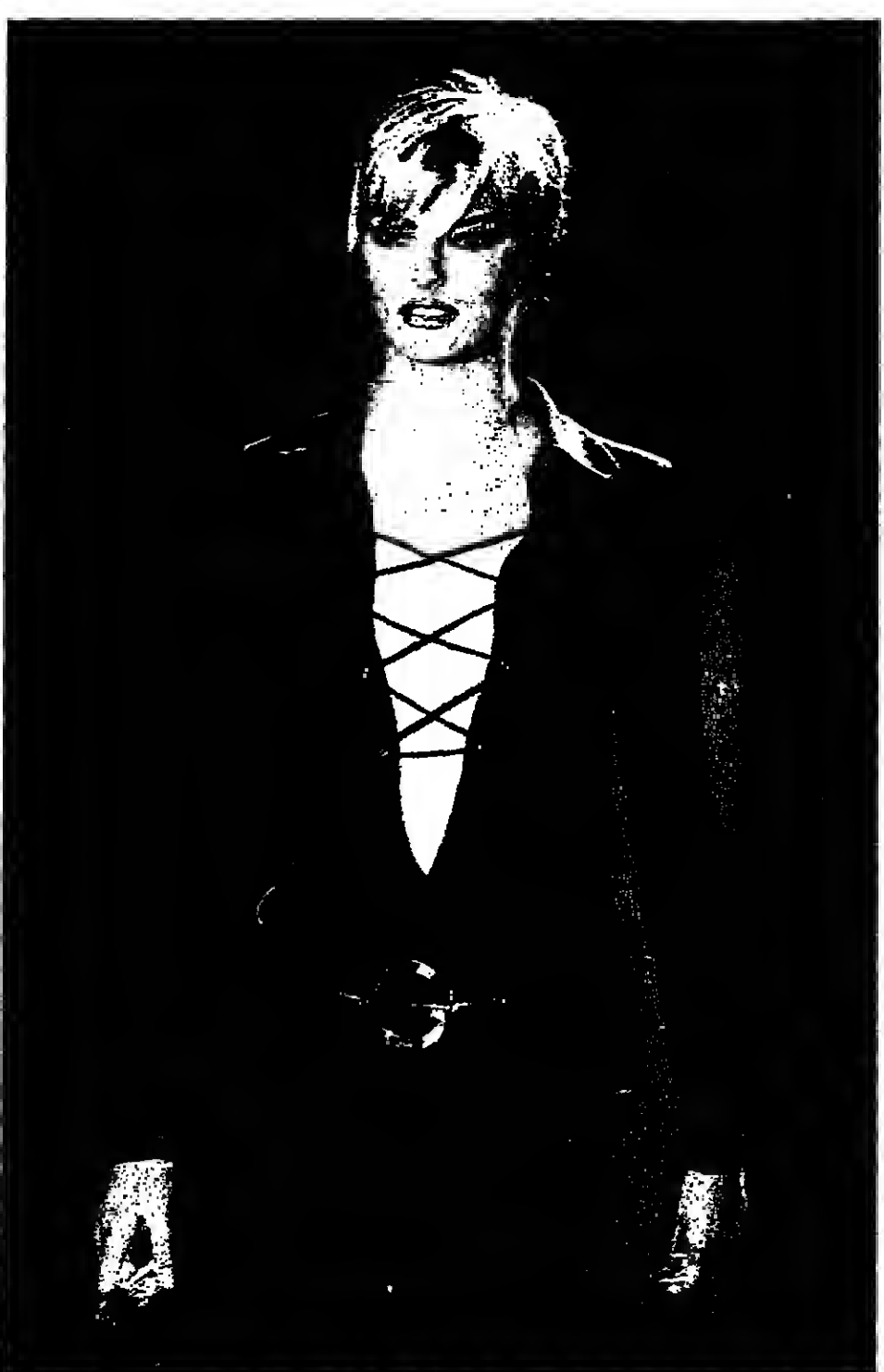
major deal pulled off by Baron Paul Buysse, the new chief executive of Vickers.

Last month he announced the £300m acquisition of Ulstein, a Norwegian marine propulsion company. Baron Buysse said the Giat deal would unlock significant benefits for the two parties.

Giat lost £12.85bn in 1997 on sales of £16.7bn francs after putting aside large provisions to pay for the rationalisation of its manufacturing facilities in France.

In the last three years it has shed 1,600 jobs. Mr Joppon, the first private sector executive to run Giat, was brought in to steer it towards partial privatisation. However, Giat is still not expected to break even until 2002.

Vickers is also rationalising its manufacturing capacity with the closure of the Leeds tank factory with the loss of 600 jobs.



Gucci on the catwalk: LVMH, the French luxury brands group, has bought another 9.5 per cent of Gucci, this time from the Milan-based designer Prada, taking its stake in the Italian fashion house to more than 14.5 per cent.

US bank tops merger league

MORGAN STANLEY Dean Witter has become the first American investment bank to top the UK mergers' league tables, confirming the dramatic inroads that big American houses have made into the British market over the past 12 months.

The bank advised on 11 deals worth £19.2bn in 1998 in what was a record-breaking year for UK merger and takeover activity, according to the final annual league table published yesterday by *Acquisitions Monthly*, the specialist magazine.

More than £90bn worth of deals were struck in the UK last year, overtaking the record set in 1995 when the merger total reached £67.7bn. In volume terms 1998 was the most active year for deals since 1988.

Schroders, among the dwindling band of independent UK-owned houses, came a close second in terms of value of deals done, with Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley's arch-

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

US rival, taking third place with \$12.4bn to its credit.

Lazards, which took the top slot in 1997, came fourth while NM Rothschild came ninth.

Piers de Montfort, the head of Morgan Stanley's UK advisory business, said yesterday that the firm's position was boosted by its role in a number of high-profile transactions such as the \$45bn BP/Amoco deal, where it advised Amoco, and Commercial Union's £6.8bn merger with General Accident.

The group also advised Astra, the Swedish pharmaceuticals group, in its recent merger with Zeneca of the UK.

Unlike Merrill Lynch and Credit Suisse First Boston, who have both improved their position in the past year, Morgan Stanley has built its UK market position organically rather than by acquiring the existing franchise of an established British merchant bank.

First Leisure hints at joint ventures

FIRST LEISURE, the health club and disco operator run by Michael Grade, the former chief executive of Channel 4, yesterday hinted at possible disposals or joint ventures when it said it was "discussing with third parties a number of strategic initiatives", writes Peter Thal Larsen.

In a vague announcement to the Stock Exchange, First Leisure said the discussions were at a "very exploratory

stage" and that it was too early to say whether they would result in any agreement.

However, the statement avoided any reference of a takeover, prompting City observers to conclude that First Leisure is not in bid talks. That sentiment was reflected in the shares, which dropped by 224p. Analysts said First Leisure could be discussing the sale of its nightclubs or its health and fitness clubs.

IN BRIEF

Steady progress at Equitas

EQUITAS, the reinsurance vehicle set up to run off £1.5bn of past liabilities at Lloyd's of London, reported steady progress yesterday for the half year to September 30. Liabilities were reduced to £11.5bn after Equitas paid £767m in claims.

Euribor trade up

TRADE IN Euribor contracts on Liffe, London's futures exchange, soared yesterday, a development seen as confirmation that the Brussels Euribor, not the London Euro Libor, would become the benchmark money market rate. More than 12,000 Euribor contracts were traded on Liffe, 15 times the typical daily volume, after four big trading houses switched to the new contract. By contrast, only 1,400 Euro Libor contracts were traded on Liffe.

Rentokil buys

RENTOKIL INITIAL yesterday announced eight acquisitions totalling £37m in cash, which will between them add £49m to annual turnover. They include two textile services companies, Adrett in Germany and the 51 per cent of BTMF in France that is not already owned. It has acquired five smallish security businesses, three in the UK, one in the Netherlands and one in Canada. The final acquisition is the Initial Staffing franchise in Cincinnati.

Insurance deal

ACE, the Bermuda-based and New York-listed insurance group, has agreed to buy the international and domestic property and casualty insurance businesses of Cigna for \$3.45bn (£2.12bn) in cash. The acquisition will be financed partly from cash reserves and partly from new equity, debt and convertible securities. The domestic business includes further claims on Cigna's now discontinued pollution insurance policies.

A horrid week for Monsieur Beylier

SO AU REVOIR then, Philippe Beylier, who resigned as chief executive of Arjo Wiggins Appleton, the world's biggest maker of fine writing paper.

The Anglo-French maker of fax and fine-art paper is splitting the business into three divisions, each of which will be managed by its own chief executive and board, so Mr Beylier won't be replaced.

Kenneth Minton, a "hands-on" manager who left the chemicals company Laporte to become Arjo's non-executive chairman in November 1997, will become executive chairman of the overall group.

Mr Beylier was far from the usual image of the French businessman as product of the elite *grande écoles*. A colleague describes him as "a solid company man born and bred" who built up the French merchant business of Arjomat-Prixart before it merged with its British rival, Wiggins Teape, and the American company Appleton. The latter businesses were demerged from BAT as part of the strategy to defeat Sir Jimmy Goldsmith's hostile bid for the tobacco giant in 1989.

This hasn't been a good week for the Frenchman. A graduate of Harvard Business School and keen skier, Mr Beylier is also a fan of Stade Français of Paris, one of the strongest rugby union sides in Europe. Stade Français were knocked out of the European Cup on Saturday by unfancied Ulster. At least he won't have to keep commuting from Paris to Arjo's UK office in scenic Basingstoke.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Mr Cooklin has been a familiar figure on the retail scene for 30 years. He joined Signet six years ago from the Burton Group, where he was chief executive. He joined the chain's suit chain in 1970 and was a close associate of the group's long-time former boss, Ralph "Five Times a Night" Halpern.



Laurence Cooklin: Moved from jewellery to radios

sending the shares south. Guy Hands of Nomura pounced in September, taking the group private for £980m.

Incidentally, Mr Cooklin's eyebrows have often been compared by colleagues to those of Chris de Burgh, the singer/songwriter. Readers may judge for themselves.

CREDIT SUISSE has removed its subsidy to the staff canteen in its Canary Wharf head office in London, leaving several thousand staff to pay more for their prawn sarries. The belt-tightening move, prompted by

last year's turmoil in financial markets, has provoked mutters of discontent amongst the investment bank's employees. One employee complained to management, only to be told: "Oh yes, well, at least we're not passing on the cost of the premises."

THE Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, which recently launched a hostile bid for rival Marston Thompson & Evershed only to be met by a "Pac Man" defence in the form of a counterbid, has hired two big hitters to beef up its top executive team.

Martin Womack comes in as trade sales director after a 20-year career with Whitbread, where he was for the last couple of years marketing director for Whitbread Inns.

Christian Reeve will join Wolves later this month from JD Wetherspoon, the family pub company where he has been director of retail operations for six years.

Mr Reeve will become Wolves' director of retail concepts, which include pub "brands" such as Varsity, Tap House and Poachers Pockets.

JAMES CROSBY is ringing the changes at Halifax, where he replaced Mike Blackburn as chief executive on 1 January. Gary Marsh, who has been head of corporate affairs for the past four years, is moving into consumer credit and retail banking, where he will become head of products.

"I started out as an economist for Halifax on the research and planning side when I joined in 1982," he recalls. "Then I started to comment on house prices for the media, which led to the communications job. Now they've decided I've got to get my hands dirty, helping to run the business."

Halifax has created a new corporate communications role for Shane O'Riordan, poached from Robert Fleming, the investment bank.

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OTHER SPOT RATE

Profit warnings take their toll

ANOTHER ROUND of profit warnings eroded stock market confidence. Although corporate action, real and rumoured, should have been strong enough to keep shares on their toes, Footsie ended 51.4 points down at 6,033.6.

Imperial Chemical Industries, once the bellwether of Britain's industrial health, now one of the index's Cinderella constituents, bucked the trend.

The shares enjoyed a late run, climbing 27p to 513.5p, with talk of US interest exciting the market.

At least one leading transatlantic investment house was said to be keen on the shares, prompting speculation that a predatory strike is planned.

ICI has been reshaped, but the exercise has not gone smoothly. Last spring the shares hit 1,244p as the market anticipated a smooth transition from bulk to specialty chemicals. The group has since had a torrid time, with its failure to clinch sales of unwanted operations causing concern about its debt mountain.

It was another busy session, with share turnover topping 1.2 billion. At one time Footsie was up 55.3 but the flow of unsettling trading statements and then a weak

ASK CENTRAL, the latest Kaye family restaurant venture which lifted its chain from 30 to 50 last year and plans to open another 20 this year, firmed 5p to 372.5p. It enjoyed good festive trading. Interim profits were sharply higher and the market is looking for £3.7m for the year just ended against £2m. Ian Berry at stockbroker Beeson Gregory expects £5.4m for this year.

New York display took their toll. Supporting indices weakened and Government stocks incurred falls of up to 45p.

Allied Domecq, the pubs and spirits group, led the retreat. The long-time underperforming blue chip once again disappointed its followers as it rolled out a profit warning, blaming poor pub sales and slack demand in Latin America. The shares led Footsie lower with an 81p (after 92.5p) fall to 516p.

The Allied stockwaves were felt at Bass, down 74.5p at 806p, and Scottish & Newcastle, 25.5p at 713p.

The Old English Pub Co increased the brewers' drop when it announced disappointing sales, blaming, among other influences, the flu bug. The shares, although

MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

ABN Amro is thought to be holding its year's profits forecast at £9.1m, fell 48p to 262.5p.

Kingfisher produced a comfortable trading statement but the shares fell 25p to 624.5p. JJB Sports slumped 38.5p to 249p after warning profits would be towards the lower end of estimates, say £41m, against hopes of £48m.

On the under-card, trading comments became increasingly cautious. Furniture maker Corwell Parker dipped 5p to 57.5p on a profits warning and Riva, a software group, plunged 11p to 21p after saying profits would be around £700,000, down from £1.3m.

Scottish Highland Hotels, down 4.5p at 80.5p, was another casualty of dolebeat comments. Chemical group Ellis & Everard also joined the trading gloom, falling 17.5p to 201p.

But fashion discounter Matalan added 17p to 369.5p after offering a round of Christmas trading cheer, and Dixons, figures today, surged a further 33p to a 91.4p peak.

On the corporate front General Electric Co was again the focus, up 15p to 564p, on French reports that it could agree a merger with Thomson-

shares added 8p to 35.5p; Dudley Jenkins, a mailing list supplier, jumped 67.5p to 560p after signalling a possible 680p offer, and IT company Division, confirming an approach, hardened 1p to 33p.

Wolverhampton & Dudley Breweries, defending a Pac-Man attack from Marston Thompson & Evershed, fell 25p to 465p; Marston lost 6p to 291.5p.

Mirror, the newspaper publisher, firmed 3p to 169p on suggestions of institutional pressure for a merger with Trinity, the provincial newspaper producer, up 10.5p to 439p.

Tescos, 9.5p stronger at 185.5p, was supported by Deutsche Morgan Grenfell comments, but British Airways failed to hold an early gain, ending 6p off at 396.5p after HSBC, bearish for five years, decided the shares were overvalued. The airline has been hit by a barrage of profit downgrades and the failure of its link with American Airlines to materialise.

Coca-Cola Beverages was flat, 3p at 112p, as CSFB cut its price target from 165p to 140p. Lascos, in talks with Enterprise Oil, gave up 2p to 104p although Salomon Smith Barney put a 170p target on the shares.

Shares of Environmental Property Services, the property services arm of the old Dean Corporation, are riding at an 8.75p high but are still undervalued, says stockbroker Teather & Greenwood.

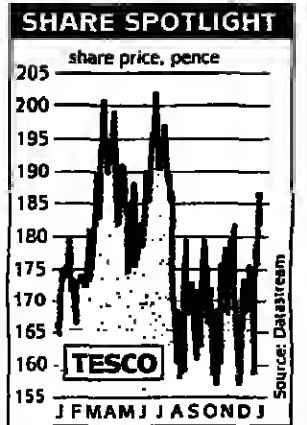
Outsourcing of property maintenance is a growth area and analyst Davis Taylor says EPS is well placed to grow. Profits for 1999 should be around £15.2m with £1.72m next year.

Shire Pharmaceuticals rose 29p to 455p following a US investment presentation and KS Biomedix slipped 3p to 296.5p after daily reporting positive trials on its osteoarthritis treatment.

Alba, a domestic appliance group which is Britain's largest supplier of televisions, gained 3p to 189p after Henderson Crosthwaite said buy, suggesting profits of £14.5m this year and £16m next.

Property group Gregynog held at 190p. Delancey Estates has lifted its stake to almost 13 per cent. Versallie, duly confirmed it may sell off its specialist glass painting business and hardened 0.25p to 1p.

SEAQ VOLUME: 1.2 billion
SEAQ TRADES: 77,273
GILTS INDEX: 115.17 -0.81



CSF by the end of the month. Vickers shed 2.5p to 164.5p after confirming rumours of a tank link with the state owned French group, Giat.

First Leisure Corporation also confirmed it was in talks, although it seems a bid is not on the agenda and the shares fell 8p to 224p.

Airtech, an electronics group, is in talks which could involve a merger, and the

Investment: Sports retailer disappoints with warning on full-year profits JJB runs into trouble after acquiring rival

BY NIGEL COPE
Associate City Editor

JJB SPORTS, the sports retailer, further disappointed investors yesterday when it issued a downbeat trading statement which included a warning on full-year profits. The main problem has been Sports Division, the rival sports chain acquired for £290m in September.

In the seven weeks to 9 January, sales in the Sports Division stores fell by 16 per cent on a like-for-like basis compared with the same period last year. This was worse than expected and compared with an improved performance at the JJB stores, where same-store sales rose by 7.4 per cent in the same period.

Sports Division's problems are the same as those reported at the company's interim results in October, namely a shortage of new-season stock and the elimination of discount and clearance sales. The chain has also been up against tough comparisons last year, when it spent over £1m on advertising.

JJB said it now expects group profits in the year to January to be towards the lower end of market expectations of £40m-£48m. The news disappointed analysts, who pointed out that the enlarged JJB Sports is now worth little more than the £290m it paid for Sports Division in September.

That deal was part-funded by a rights issue priced at 440p per share. Yesterday the share price gave up earlier gains to slide 38.5p to 249p.

JJB is suffering from the problems that have gripped the sports retail sector since last spring, when Sports Division was forced to pull its £350m flotation. The boom in high-margin replica football kit has cooled, consumer spending has weakened and the sector is suffering from chronic overcapacity, with all the major players committed to extensive opening programmes.

John Richards, retail analyst at BT Alex Brown, said: "Trading has picked up in the pre-Christmas period but overcapacity is still a problem."

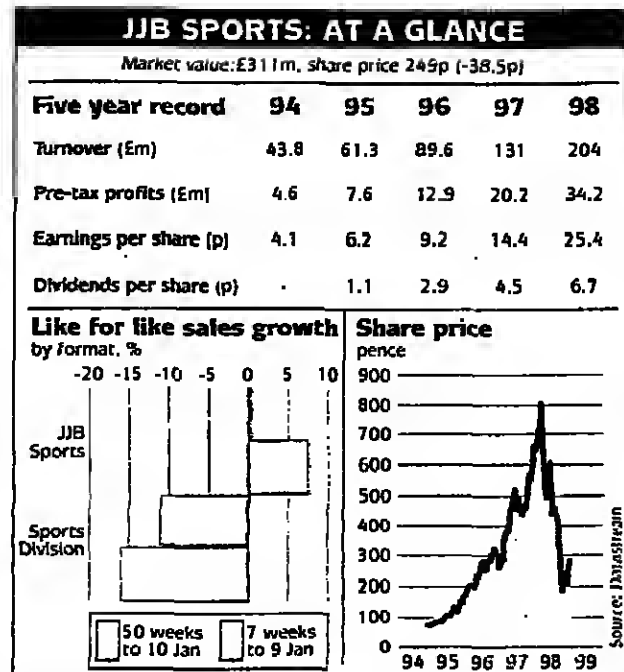
JJB has scaled back its store opening programme but still opened 36 new stores, mostly in its larger superstore format, last year.

The group has also agreed terms on 28 new stores in the coming year. The company concedes that there are too many high street sports shops but believes its out-of-town superstores are a potential winner.

The stock issue at Sports Division will have been resolved in the next few months. The company is converting the superstores to the JJB format at the rate of two a week, with the plan to complete the process by the end of the year. However, the conversion of the high street Sports Division stores could take another three years.

In the replica market, JJB is discounting several club strips to boost sales. Replica kits still account for 14 per cent of group sales, down from 16 per cent a year ago.

David Whelan, executive chairman, said yesterday: "There is no doubt that retail trading conditions have been



difficult. October was a particularly tough month and the Christmas trading period started more slowly than last year but accelerated right up to the last day before Christmas. Sales since then have been very buoyant, which encourages me to think that consumer confidence is slowly returning."

BT Alex Brown feels JJB shares now have some potential, having fallen so far from their peak.

But SG Securities still rates the stock "underperform". The main worry is that, even if consumer spending does improve, the level of new store openings in the sports sector will continue to undermine earnings growth. The going could remain tough.

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David Whelan, JJB's chairman, thinks consumer confidence is slowly returning

Tough times expected for Ellis

ELLIS & EVERARD, the Bradford-based chemicals and polymers distributor, yesterday joined the growing ranks of companies issuing profits warnings when it cautioned that profits would at best be flat in the second half as the economic outlook deteriorated.

The company announced a 3 per cent rise in profits to £17m for the six months to the end of October. Turnover rose by 8 per cent to £392m, but margins narrowed.

Chief executive Peter Wood warned that full-year profits excluding exceptional items would be broadly in line with last year's total of £33.1m, implying

a fall of more than 3 per cent to £15m in the second half.

The company has taken immediate measures to try to reduce costs by consolidating the distribution of bulk solvents and packaged goods in the UK and its business in the Benelux countries. This will create an exceptional charge of £1.6m in the second half and swallow up the £1.5m exceptional profit from the sale of the group's minority interest in its Italian partner, Novaria, which was announced yesterday.

Jonathan Taylor, the chairman, was quick to say that the

company had the right strategies in place for long-term growth. The European sales alliance continues to attract new customers, suppliers and partners. Operating profits in the UK were unchanged, although sales were actually a touch lower, and prices were under pressure from the autumn onwards.

But, given that over half the turnover and almost half the profits are generated in the US where until the last few days the overall economic position remains remarkably optimistic, the outlook can no longer be ignored. Sales in the US rose by 18 per cent, but this came mainly

from acquisitions and volume gains were being offset by falling prices.

Analysts immediately downgraded forecasts for the full year from £34m to £32m, and the shares fell 17.5p to 201p - above their low point of 166p last October, but well down on the 300p-plus at the start of 1998.

Forecasts still put earnings at 24.4p a share, which would adequately cover a repeat of last year's dividend of 9.5p a share. But at just over eight times earnings, the market fully anticipates tough times ahead. Growth depends on further acquisitions in an industry ripe for further consolidation.

Kingfisher brightens retail picture

BY NIGEL COPE

reported strong sales growth. Signet, the former Ratners jeweller group, also did well.

Louise van Blixen, retail analyst at SG Securities, commented: "If there is a trend emerging, it is that the discounters are doing better than the rest." John Richards, at BT Alex Brown added: "The general picture looks pretty gloomy and it looks as if consumers are looking for value."

Yesterday's discount success follows good figures already reported by Merchant Retail, which runs the cut-

priced Perfume Shops, and Peacocks, the privately controlled clothing discounter.

At Kingfisher, the group saw same store sales rise by 3.2 per cent over Christmas. Woolworths and Superdrug led the way with like-for-like growth figures of 5 per cent.

Sir Geoff Mulcahy, Kingfisher's chief executive, said: "Customers were careful with their money in the run-up to Christmas but overall we are pleased with the group's performance."

B&Q, its DIY chain, did not show the same improvement, with only a 0.6 per cent sales

rise against very strong sales this time last year. Darty, Kingfisher's French electricals chain, and Comet performed moderately with same-store growth of 2 per cent and 0.9 per cent respectively.

Matalan combined a positive trading statement with expectations of improved profits. It said full-year profits would now be "not less than £23m," compared with analysts' forecasts in the range of £17.7m to £21.5m. In the five weeks to 2 January it recorded same-store sales growth of 11.4 per cent on the same period last year.

Signet, which controls the

H Samuel chain, showed group like-for-like sales growth of 6.2 per cent in the weeks from 2 November to 24 December. "Group profits for the year to January should be somewhat ahead of market expectations," the group said.

Signet's growth was fuelled by a strong performance in the United States, where its Sterling business saw sales up by more than 10 per cent on last year. The UK was more pedestrian, with sales at H Samuel falling by 2.4 per cent compared with a 1 per cent rise at the smaller, more mid-market chain, Ernest Jones.

Taylor Nelson quashes fears on merger

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

TAYLOR NELSON SOFRES, the market research group, yesterday quashed market fears that its year-old merger had run into trouble, with a confident trading statement.

Shares in Taylor Nelson jumped 4.5p to 98.5p as Tony Cowling, Taylor's chairman, said the integration with Sofres, the French network which was Taylor's merger partner in December 1997, was going well.

He added that, despite a slowdown in some markets as a result of declining economic growth, results were still in line with market expectations.

He was speaking as Taylor appointed David Lowden, the former finance director of Asprey & Garrard, the jewellers controlled by Prince Jefri of Brunei, as its new finance director.

Mr Lowden, 41, is also a former executive of AC Nielsen, the US market research giant which is one of Taylor's principal competitors.

Yesterday's statement helped Taylor's rehabilitation in the stock market, where its shares have suffered over fears that the worldwide economic slowdown would hurt demand for its businesses. Last month, the shares touched a low of 67.75p, compared with a 12-month high of 144.5p.

Taylor now pursues the mundane business of television audience research and conducting consumer panels in 30 countries around the world - it recently expanded into South Korea and Thailand.

The group believes that market research is becoming a global industry as multinational companies increasingly award all their business to a single supplier.

At the same time, Taylor is in the process of abandoning its national structure in favour of global units specialising in the automotive and telecommunications industry.

Analysts said they supported Taylor's strategy but were concerned that it remains vulnerable to a slowing economy - two-thirds of its revenues come from one-off projects. "At about 100p we rate the shares a hold," one broker said yesterday.

Pace Micro Technology

THE HEADLINE on an article on Pace Micro Technology on Monday should have read "Digital TV shifts Pace into the black", rather than into the red. The article also mistakenly reported the company's post-tax profit as its pre-tax profit. Pace's profits were in fact £8.5m before tax for the six months to the end of November.

Amec upbeat

AMEC, the engineering, construction and infrastructure

IN BRIEF

development group, and Aggregate Industries, the building materials and merchandising group, both did their best to reassure the City yesterday with positive trading statements. Peter Mason, group chief executive of Amec confirmed that the trading outcome for the year just ended would be in line with market expectations.

The group's cash position remains strong, even after buying back 10 per cent of its convertible preference shares

over the last 18 months. The overall £3bn order book has been maintained at the level of last year, and specialist services have increased orders by 18 per cent. The shares fell 2.5p to 177p.

Peter Torn, group chief executive of Aggregates, confirmed that in spite of a poor third quarter, performance in the second half of 1998 was satisfactory and trading ended the year on a firm note. Annual savings of £13m have been achieved as a result of the merger with CAMAS in 1997. The shares shed 0.5p to 69p.

KINGFISHER, the B&Q to Woolworths retail group, added a ray of sunshine to Britain's gloomy high street sector yesterday when it reported solid growth in Christmas sales, led by growth at Woolworths and Superdrug.

Kingfisher's announcement coincided with a flurry of Christmas trading statements from retailers which suggest that "value-based" stores have fared better than their higher priced rivals this year as consumers tighten their belts.

Matalan, the edge-of-town discount clothing group which typically offers branded clothing at discounts of up to 50 per cent,

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES									
Country	Sterling	1 month	3 month	Dollar	Spot	1 month	3 month	Euro	Spot
UK	1.0000			0.6132	0.6138	0.6144	0.6149	0.7073	
Australia	1.5471	2.5449	2.5429	1.5619	1.5621	1.5623	1.5624	1.8014	
Austria	19.428	19.428	19.404	11.827	11.827	11.827	11.827	13.7803	
Belgium	35.018	35.018	35.018	36.363	36.363	36.363	36.363	40.346	
Canada	2.4611	2.4586	2.4562	1.5092	1.5091	1.5091	1.5091	1.7405	
Denmark	10.524	10.503	10.474	6.4533	6.4470	6.4350	6.4241	7.4431	
Euro	1.4139	1.4103	1.4049	1.534	1.534	1.534	1.534	1.0000	
France	6.4039	6.3823	6.3501	5.1534	5.1451	5.1301	5.1157	5.8457	
Germany	9.272	9.248	9.212	5.6854	5.6763	5.6597	5.6456	6.3596	
Greece	2.7644	2.7514	2.7467	1.6862	1.6862	1.6862	1.6862	1.9458	
Hong Kong	4.8129	4.8032	4.7938	280.38	281.93	284.38	287.38	323.38	
Italy	12.635	12.629	12.628	7.7483	7.7518	7.7548	7.7584	8.9364	
Japan	11.132	11.102	11.069	0.6278	0.6278	0.6278	0.6278	0.7176	
South Africa	7.7563	7.7563	7.7563	1.6752	1.6752	1.6752	1.6752	1.9476	
Spain	162.51	161.55	160.05	111.92	111.44	110.62	109.77	128.077	
Sweden	6.2050	6.2043	6.2043	3.8880	3.8880	3.8880	3.8880	4.3885	
Switzerland	3.1148	3.1068	3.0948	1.9010	1.9010	1.9010	1.9010	2.2037	
USA	1.5174	1.5174	1.5174	0.5471	0.5471	0.5471	0.5471	0.6183	
New Zealand	2.9810	2.9786	2.9763	0.5471	0.5471	0.5471	0.5471	0.6183	
Portugal	201.37	201.37	201.37	173.77	173.48	172.96	172.48	200.48	
Saudi Arabia	6.1161	6.1217	6.1266	3.7505	3.7575	3.7640	3.7700	4.3756	
Singapore	2.7397	2.7397	2.7397	1.6862	1.6862	1.6862	1.6862	1.9458	
South Africa	9.8293	9.8293	9.8293	6.0275	6.0275	6.0275	6.0275	6.9174	
Taiwan	35.018	35.018	35.018	144.21	143.88	143.56	143.24	166.386	
Thailand	12.710	12.679	12.654	7.7527	7.7527	7.7527	7.7527	8.9364	
UK	0.4493	0.4493	0.4493	1.3847	1.3769	1.3676	1.3584	1.534	
USA	1.5308	2.2560	2.2411	1.0000				1.1534	

OTHER SPOT RATES					
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling	Dollar
Argentina	1.6308	1.0000	Orman	0.6278	0.3850
Brazil	1.9748	1.2110	Pakistan	82.108	50.350
China	13.502	8.2795	Philippines	61.561	37.750
Czech Rep	50.044	30.688	Poland	7.443	3.525
Denmark	5.9847	3.4746	Qatar	9.5351	3.6195
Egypt	3874.1	2345.0	Russia	37670.3	23100.0
France	352.03	215.87	South Korea	1916.1	1175.00
Hungary	69.388	42.5	Taiwan	32.305	16.350
Indonesia	13127.5	9090.0	Thailand	98.778	36.350
Italy	0.4983	0.3025	Turkey	52.6406	322800
Japan	150.03	92.000	UAE	5.9889	3.6725

SPORT

Basketball: 'Superman'... 'God'... the Muhammad Ali of his generation. Can the sport survive without its greatest talent?

Jordan leaving
haunting legacy
with retirement

AT THE United Center basketball arena in Chicago, they worship Michael Jordan like a god. The stadium would not have been built without him and without his extraordinary, record-breaking feats with the Chicago Bulls.

Jordan was the man who, more than any other, dragged the Bulls out of obscurity and transformed them into the most electrifying team in the history of basketball.

He has become the most instantly recognisable name in American sports, the Muhammad Ali or Babe Ruth of his generation. A statue in the arena calls Jordan the best there ever was and the best there ever will be - a piece of hyperbole that few would disagree with.

But now, it seems, the Bulls - and the world - will have to learn to live without him. After months of rumours, compounded by a bitter six-month labour dispute that wiped out the first part of the new basketball season, Jordan has decided to announce his retirement.

The news was widely leaked by friends and associates who have been hoping against hope for months to persuade him to stay for another season or two, and the official confirmation is expected to come in a news conference in Chicago as early as today.

The reaction to his decision could only be described as stunned disbelief. "Say it ain't so, Mike," implored one newspaper headline. But even the most hyperbolic sports writers - the ones who have compared Jordan to Superman and God himself - know that the writing has been on the wall for some time.

Jordan has never hidden his wish to quit while he was still on top of the game. After 16 professional seasons, he has achieved all that a sportsman could possibly hope to achieve: leading the Bulls to six National Basketball Association championships in eight seasons, including the last three in a row; being named Most Valuable Player five times; helping the United States pick up two Olympic gold medals, and - perhaps most significantly - becoming a legend in his own lifetime, a sporting phenomenon capable not only of wowing sports arenas but of driving entire economic enterprises and influencing stock prices on Wall Street, too.

Advancing age - he turns 36 next month - is probably not the only factor. The six-month NBA lock-out, that revolved around salaries for star players like him, appears to have left a bitter taste in his mouth, as it has for millions of disenchanted basketball fans. Although actively involved in negotiations for most of the dispute, he distanced himself in the closing stages.

BY ANDREW GUMBEL
in Los Angeles

As the stand-off was finally resolved last week, Jordan was in the Bahamas on holiday. His teammates report that he has not been following his usual work-out routine and has spent much of his time playing golf. He is also said to have cut a tendon in a finger, which would probably disqualify him for the belated start of the season on 5 February.

The arguments over star salaries have also lit a fuse under the very bedrock of the Chicago Bulls. Since the summer, Jordan has been tussling with the Bulls' chairman, Jerry Krause, particularly after the departure of the team's coach, Phil Jackson, for an "extended sabbatical". Since only four of the Bulls' players are on contract, Jordan's departure is going to make it much harder for Krause to hold on to his other star players - the forward Scottie Pippen, whom Jordan calls his "little brother", and the rebounder Dennis Rodman.

It is just possible that Jordan is bluffing, or that he will change his mind. After all, he has quit before. In 1993, after leading the Bulls to their first three championship titles,

'It was the best last moment in the history of sport. Jordan didn't retire at the top. He retired while dancing across it'

he made the extraordinary decision to retire from basketball and try his luck at baseball.

He never made it past the minor league, and 18 months later he sent a famous telegram to the Bulls bearing just two words: "I'm back."

His first retirement appeared to be motivated, once again, by money and labour disputes. It also followed hard on the heels of the murder, still unsolved, of his father in North Carolina.

This time, though, the experts are in little doubt that Jordan means business. "When he retired the first time, I was one of the few who kept saying he eventually would return," the columnist Lacy Banks wrote in yesterday's *Chicago Sun-Times*. "But I can't share in that optimism this time."

If this is indeed the end, Jordan's fans will be left with a haunting memory of his final act in professional basketball: the extraordinary 18ft jump shot with which he clinched the championship for the Bulls with five seconds to go in the final game with

their arch rivals, the Utah Jazz, in June.

After he completed the winning shot, Jordan's right arm remained extended in a frozen image of victory - a moment that was widely recalled yesterday. "It was a moment become sculpture," enthused Bill Plaschke in the *Los Angeles Times*. "It was perhaps the best last moment in the history of sports... Michael Jordan didn't retire at the top. He retired while dancing across it."

As a player, Jordan was something of a late developer. In high school in North Carolina, he hesitated for a long time between basketball and baseball - a hesitation that would affect his later career, too. Although he was twice named college player of the year, he was not initially believed to be quite the star material he turned into and was judged to be only the third best player of his year when he was drafted from college to the Bulls in 1984.

Soon, though, he was stunning the crowds with his dunk shots, his hand-switching, his extraordinary point-scoring capacity (63 points in a single, fabled game against the Boston Celtics) and his ability to deliver at the crucial moment.

As he propelled the Bulls towards the top, the team drafted Phil Jackson as coach and Pippen and Horace Grant (later replaced by Rodman) as fellow players. By 1991, the most successful line-up in NBA history was in place, and wiped out the competition year after year.

So strong was the fascination Jordan exerted that he became the darling of advertisers, sponsors and merchandisers.

Nike designed a shoe, the Air Jordan, just for him and made a fortune out of it. He endorsed hamburgers, hot dogs, soft drinks, cars, airlines and more. When he returned to professional basketball in 1995, the share price of Nike and McDonald's shot up.

In 1993 the *Chicago Tribune* calculated his revenue-generating abilities were worth \$1bn (£500m) to the city of Chicago alone. Last year, *Fortune* magazine estimated he had contributed \$10bn dollars to the US economy as a whole.

His departure will thus be a blow of staggering proportions. He was one of the few reasons fans were still clinging on to a sport that was struggling with its finances and its self-image even before the NBA lock-out.

The Chicago Bulls may not survive his retirement, and the rest of the league is trembling too. As a Chicago fan told an overnight radio call-in, nobody is indispensable, but Michael Jordan might just be the exception to that rule.



Michael Jordan dragged the Chicago Bulls from obscurity into the most electrifying team in the history of basketball

AP

School helps Martin-Jenkins to grow up

New faces for 1999: Durham Academy has sharpened all-round skills and frame of mind of Sussex cricketer. By David Llewellyn

THE NAME is big enough in every sense of the word to be a burden. The late Jim Laker gently poked fun at it when he said: "There are a lot of people in the field of cricket broadcasting these days, there's Christopher Martin-Jenkins to name three of them."

But the 23-year-old Robin Martin-Jenkins is not bothered. "I would never dream of dropping the Martin hyphen," he said. "If anything it has helped me rather than hindered my progress over the years. As I was going through the ranks of schoolboy cricket and then later in trials with Sussex I would get looked at more than the other boys, because people were interested in the name. But I have still had to come up with the goods. It is not the name that has got me where I am."

At least Robin's cricket career is not going to be one long comparison with that of his father. Christopher is once removed from the professional world his son, a right-hand bat and right arm fast-medium bowler, has just entered with Sussex. "My father is not a bad batsman," said Robin, who like his old man, the *Daily Telegraph* cricket correspondent and BBC Test Match Special commentator, plays for his club, Hove, whenever he gets the chance.

"But, because he is a journalist and a broadcaster, while I am a professional cricketer, I have nothing to live up to in terms of playing the

game and matching or bettering his achievements. He is not an Ian Botham. I feel very sorry for Liam Botham and other sons of famous sports people from that point of view."

As sound as those sentiments are, Martin-Jenkins is already having to live up to his own achievements for Sussex, where he is beginning to show all the signs of turning into a genuine all-rounder.

He was fourth highest in his county's first-class batting averages at a shade under 30, and he proved with a couple of Championship half-centuries that he can hit the ball. He is correct, but not afraid to go for his shots.

His fast medium bowling - and the occasionally wickedly quicker ball - brought him 22 wickets at 19.86 in the handful of Championship matches his final-year studies at Durham University allowed him. With his height he can generate useful bounce, and although he strives for consistency of rhythm there is a quicker delivery that can catch out the best of batsmen.

Indeed, his bowling looks to be the real thing. A career-best 7 for 54 against Glamorgan was a match-winning performance late last summer and there is excited talk in the

shires and in the game in general, of him having the potential to go all the way to the top.

Martin-Jenkins is having none of it. Not surprising, really. He graduated with a degree in sociology and has a sharp enough grasp of the realities of his chosen profession. And anyway, he has not even been capped by Sussex yet, so talk of him succeeding for England has to be a touch premature to say the least.

With his feet planted firmly on the ground, some six and a half feet below his head, Martin-Jenkins makes it clear he is under no illusions. "I need to do a full year in county cricket which, provided I am picked, should be this coming season," he said.

"Traditionally coaches and the press get very excited when a youngster does well in their first half year, talking about their potential as an England player only to find a couple of years later that they have not progressed. I just would not know. I need to bowl and bat against the best, then I will find out. Right now I am quite happy to be underrated rather than overrated." When pushed, though, Martin-Jenkins admitted: "Quietly I would back myself to succeed."

No one, it would seem had real-

ly pushed him much as a youngster. For all his father's ability at club level, the pushing was to come a lot later in Martin-Jenkins' formative years.

He said: "My father has been a very big influence, encouraging me from the moment I first picked up a bat. He went out of his way to make sure I had the best coaching around and the best opportunities. Like a lot of parents he has driven me all over the country as a youngster, taking me to matches and festivals. Yet he has never made me play cricket. He never pushed me to go on. It is something that happened naturally."

"Although we have never actually discussed it, I think he was desperate for me to make it in the game. One gets that impression. He is delighted when I do well and he asks me all sorts of questions about life as a professional cricketer."

The push came to shove while Martin-Jenkins was in his second year at Durham. He became a part of the Durham Academy, coming under the harder-nosed, highly intelligent influence of former Lancashire and England opener Graeme "Foxy" Fowler.

"I only really benefited in my second year at the academy, which was last year," said Martin-Jenkins. "But

even in that short time there I felt much better prepared for the season with Sussex. And I did not feel I was losing out in the professional game by being at university. In future people at Durham University will find, thanks to the academy, that their cricket will not suffer. They will come out at the end with a degree and their playing career should have progressed."

"From a personal point of view Foxy has definitely helped me grow up in the game," acknowledged Martin-Jenkins. "The academy, though, helps everyone to get into a professional frame of mind. Foxy is good at the mental side of the game, while obviously the technical side of coaching there is also very good."

David Gilbert, now general manager at Hove, saw a huge difference in Martin-Jenkins. "He was harder," remembered Gilbert, the former Australian Test fast bowler. "They brought out his competitive side. There was suddenly an edge to his game."

He managed one Championship match during his Easter vacation when he scored a second-innings 63 and had three victims in a two-wicket win over Lancashire. He also has a modicum of success in the Sunday League match against the same opponents, although Sussex lost that game, which was played under floodlights.

Martin-Jenkins is still young



Buckling down: Martin-Jenkins wants county career Peter Jay

enough and new enough in the game to marvel at how his life is panning out. "I took a year off school (Radley) and university and I got caught up in the excitement of it all. Just to be a professional cricketer was amazing," he said. And it would appear that the enthusiasm and wonder of it has still not worn off.

But reality is there all the same. "I think I have grown up a bit and

realised that cricket is going to be my life," he explained. "So I jolly well have to huckle down or end up on the dole or in an office job which I definitely don't want."

However far he goes, Martin-Jenkins has the wherewithal and the attitude. Already he is beginning to make a name for himself. It is surely just a matter of time before a little bit of history is created - father doing commentary on his son.

Olazabal takes the slow route

ABOUT THE only remaining person in golf who believes the sport should have an off-season longer than the two-week Christmas and New Year break is Jose Maria Olazabal. It is hard to prize the Spaniard away from his San Sebastian home in the Basque country at this time of year and it is hardly a surprise that he has not joined the lemming-like rush down to South Africa for the start of the 1999 European Tour on Thursday.

Olazabal's season will not get under way until the Dubai Classic next month, where he will be the defending champion, but he did get on a plane last week. It was only an internal flight down to Malaga, where he popped in on the MacGregor Training Week to see his old coach, John Jacobs. The veteran swing guru is

the only man Olazabal has ever listened to about his own particularly rapid action. Top of the agenda was his problem driving the ball, one that outside observers find hard to detect but which causes the perfectionist inside Olazabal to find a constant source of grief.

"Not being able to hit the driver properly is hard to take because the rest of my game is all right," Olazabal said. "I drove the ball well for four or five weeks early last year when I had some good results and won in Dubai but all of a sudden it deteriorated." Olazabal was also at San Roque to film a television commercial with another MacGregor player, Darren Clarke. The gist of the conversation was: "I'd like to be able to drive the ball like you, Darren."

And I'd love to hole as many putts from 15 feet as you, Jose." One of the other reasons why Olazabal thinks the majority of his 1998 season did not live up to a promising start was not having a proper break last winter. "I only had 10 days off before I started practising again to play the early events of the season," he said. "By June and July I was feeling very tired." The former Masters champion has the option to pick and choose his assignments. He also has the knowledge that he does not have to worry about retaining his player's card or chasing Ryder Cup points,

which will come in abundance with a few top finishes. For those officially invited to the European Tour Training School, the new recruits from the Qualifying School and the Challenge Tour, the same does not apply. Immediately on getting back from Spain on Sunday, John Bickerton was on a plane to Johannesburg for the South African PGA. Bickerton, who turns 30 later this month, is used to a busy schedule. At one point last season he played 22 consecutive weeks, trying to combine a limited number of appearances on the main circuit with the Chal-

lenge Tour, where he managed to secure his card for the real thing. "You have to keep going because you're thinking the next week might be the big one." He considered pulling out of the British Masters because he was shattered but was persuaded to carry on and finished eighth, his best result on the European Tour. Having lost his card after two seasons in 1996, Bickerton feels more prepared this time. "I have learnt not to set too many goals," he said. "In the past I found that obstructive because you end up thinking

more about the goals than just playing golf." This was Bickerton's third visit to the MacGregor Training Week and though the idea is that players do well enough never to return - Vijay Singh became the first graduate to win a major championship at the USPGA last August - Bickerton found it just as valuable as on his first visit. "I would come every year if I was invited," he said. "I cannot believe more players who have the opportunity don't come. If you take away one thing in each aspect of the game, then it is worth it." By far the biggest draw is Tommy Horton's short game clinics. The unrivalled No 1 on the European Seniors Tour, Horton is showing off new tricks to players who think they know it all. "The great thing about Tommy is that not only does he



Olazabal: Too little rest

can get out of hand. Mac O'Grady, the eccentric 47-year-old American who ruffled a few feathers when he won his card at San Roque, but the word is that he is considering having two inches taken out of his legs. O'Grady has made a thorough study of the physiology of the golf swing and one of the main conclusions of his research is, apparently, that the ideal height for a golfer is 5ft 10in.

Rusedski frustrated by Kuerten

GREG RUSEDISKI had started to 1999 continued yesterday when he went out in the first round of the Sydney International. The British No 2's 1-6, 6-3, 6-4 defeat by Gustavo Kuerten was his second consecutive first-round defeat in the opening two ATP tournaments of the year.

Last week, Rusedski was beaten in his match against the German Bernd Karbacher in the Qatar Open, losing 4-6, 7-6, 6-3, while his British rival, Tim Henman, reached the final. At least the Brazilian Kuerten is a recognised star of the tour, with a French Open title under his belt, but with Rusedski seeded five, and ranked nine in the world, it was still an upset.

Rusedski, who now goes into next week's Australian Open in Melbourne with just two competitive matches under his belt since the end of last season, was calm after his latest setback, however. "There's nothing to be negative about, nothing to be down about it," Rusedski said. "Kuerten just played a great match, he was just too good." The US Open champion, Patrick Rafter, was another player who squandered the chance of vital match practice before next week's Australian Open when he lost 7-6, 6-1 to the teenager Leyton Hewitt in the first round of the Sydney International.

Hewitt has a particular liking for big scalps. When he won the Adelaide Hardcourt Championships last year at the age of 16 he beat the former world No 1 Andre Agassi on the way.

TENNIS
BY JOHN BROCK

The young Australian counter-puncher managed to keep a rusty Rafter on the move throughout, forcing him into repeated errors, and never allowed the world No 4 to stamp any authority on the match. After four breaks of service in the opening set, Hewitt took it easily on the tie-break 7-1.

Hewitt was too strong for Rafter in the second set, rifling winners past the second seed. He broke service twice to seal victory in 81 minutes. Hewitt now faces Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany in the second round.

Rafter was a second-round loser to the Czech Slava Dosedel at the Adelaide tournament and yesterday's defeat means he will line up in Melbourne having played only three matches after returning from a two-month lay-off with a knee injury. "My concentration slipped. It was a little bit up and down," Rafter said. Speaking of his problems playing in Australia - he has never progressed beyond the fourth round in seven Australian Opens - Rafter said: "It's always a pretty big issue for me and I don't think it will change. I've always struggled at home."

In the women's event, the former women's No 1 Martina Hingis was in typically devastating form as she disposed of another promising Australian teenager, Alicia Molik, 6-1, 6-2.

Molik, 17, had beaten the world No 16 Natasha Zvereva in the first round after gaining a wild card entry.



Greg Rusedski plays a backhand in his second successive first-round defeat, to Gustavo Kuerten in Sydney yesterday. Clive Brunskill/Allsport

Hingis, the world No 2, produced a clinical display to beat Molik in her opening match of the tournament. She broke the Australian's first two service games on the way to a 5-0 lead in the first set and then pushed the tall Molik around the court at will in the second to wrap up victory in under an hour.

"I was concentrating very well today and played almost without mistakes," said Hingis, who will be defending her Australian Open title next week. Spain's Conchita Martinez, seeded five, lost in straight sets to the Austrian, Barbara Schett. The men's world No 2, Marcelo Rios, dropped out of

the ATP tournament in Auckland yesterday just 46 minutes into his first-round match.

A recurrence of a back injury which troubled him at the end of last year was apparently the reason for his withdrawal. The Chilean was the top seed at the Heineken Auckland Open.

Rios had won the first set of

his match against the Romanian Andre Pavel 7-5, but when he was broken in the second game of the second set - refusing to chase a ball on break point - he withdrew to the locker-room to receive treatment for his back pain.

In the second round of the Tasmanian International

women's event in Hobart, Ruxandra Dragomir became the third seed to be beaten. The Romanian, seeded seven, had no answer to Grande's big forehand and crisp volleying and the Italian, who has been out of the game with a back injury, achieved a comprehensive 6-1, 6-3 victory.

Korda to face players' meeting

PETR KORDA, the Australian Open champion, said in Melbourne yesterday that he would attend a meeting of his peers this weekend that is due to discuss his lenient treatment over a positive steroid test - but the Czech veteran promised to defend his title at the year's first Grand Slam tournament.

"I will stand in front of the players. I do not have any problem doing so," Korda said. "I didn't do anything wrong, so why I should hide myself?"

Korda spoke as players and officials continued their close scrutiny of his positive test for the banned steroid nandrolone at Wimbledon last year. The 30-year-old was stripped of the ranking points he earned plus the \$93,529 (£57,360) prize-money he won.

An International Tennis Federation Appeals Committee stopped short of sentencing him to the mandatory one-year ban under its own anti-doping rules because it believed he did not knowingly take the drug.

Korda said he had been tested many times, including after last year's Australian Open. "I have never knowingly taken or been treated with any banned substance," he said.

Leading players were split over the controversy.

Andre Agassi said players were entitled to find out the reasons for the positive test and the subsequent light penalty but threw his full support behind Korda.

Thomas Muster, however, said that the ITF had failed to enforce its own rules. "The question is, was he guilty or not? If he was guilty punish him, if not let him go," he said.

Honour, defeat and our malaise

Sir: An American friend of mine rang me to make a point that he has made many times in the past decade. As long as we, the British,

continue to welcome home beaten teams as though there was something honourable and even creditable in defeat, then we are never going to be a nation of sporting winners.

Over the past three months the English cricket team has performed feebly. They have shown a total lack of the ability to be tough and be real winners. After we had lost the Ashes I rang my friend in New York and predicted that we would win the next Test. Sure enough, when nothing was at stake, we won. When we are going to understand that winning a Test match once the Ashes have been lost is close to no achievement at all?

Do we really believe that if the Ashes had been up for grabs the Australians would have lost in Melbourne? There were three headlines in *The Independent* regarding our latest apathetic efforts in Sydney, and the series as a whole. "Stewart's men earn respect for a courageous performance", 188 all out - a courageous performance? "Honour has been salvaged." How? Where? When? There is no honour in defeat. "England captain has emerged with credit for rediscovered fighting spirit."

Just because a couple of our bowlers actually managed to live up to, or maybe even slightly surpass, their potential does not excuse the rest of the team for four matches of underachievement and a total lack of spirit.

Delusion is a malaise that we, as a sporting nation, have suffered from for too long. In football we went out with great honour at Italia 90, were robbed at Euro 96 and to add insult to previous failure, Glenn Hoddle tells us that if David Beckham hadn't been sent off we would have gone on to win the World Cup. How do we react to this? We renew his contract. In America, he would not have had time to board the plane home before being sacked, and rightly so.

It is time to wake up: defeat is defeat. Whether it is by one run, one goal, one wicket or a penalty, it is still defeat and defeat is failure. Ninety per cent of our touring cricket team should hang their heads in shame for their lack of guts, but we let them off the hook by covering them in "honour", "courage" and "fighting spirit".

Surely it is time that we recognised this embarrassing British trait

and did away with it. We want to be winners and we want to welcome our sportsmen back with praise and honour, but they have to actually deserve such accolades. JOHN BATTSEK, London.

Playing fields must be forever

Sir: Following our ignominious Ashes defeat, it is not surprising that so many armchair critics have the problem solved. At the risk of joining this mob, may I make a couple of observations.

It is not just cricket that we should be concerned about. I have been a governor of a number of schools and colleges over the past 25 years, during which there has been a worrying policy of hogging off playing fields and, indeed, school sites to developers.

It will take a good number of years yet for many of our major team sports to recover from this short-term policy of eating the seed corn. No doubt we will recover - we always do - but it would be nice if the nutters were not quite so profligate with our assets. BRIAN CLANCY, Altrincham, Cheshire

Hypocrisy of 'health risks'

Sir: Your Leader "Can it be right to risk your life for sport?" (31 December) would seem to accept that the core reason for banning drugs in sport - "health of the sportsman" - is not valid. I have found it strange that we should praise the courage of yachtsmen, yet heap ignominy on athletes, for taking risks with their health.

I would welcome some debate on this dilemma. Let this not get side-tracked by references to "cheating". Change the rules and you have no cheating, exactly in the same way the rules on amateurism were changed. BARRY WILLIAMS, Holmes Chapel, Cheshire

Rich and tired - what a strain

Sir: What is the world coming to? A fortnight ago the Leicester City manager, Martin O'Neill, was complaining that his players are "tired", having played two games over three days during the Christmas holiday. Then today (7 January)

we hear that Robbie Fowler has rejected a contract worth £35,000 a week. I despair... I am a nurse, regularly pay good money to watch football and players who wouldn't get out of bed for what I earn, and am expected to cry into my cornflakes for managers and players alike! Get into the real world, fellas! RICHARD HUGHES, Southwark, London

International pool for referees

Sir: I wondered if Richard Williams ("Red mist for the men in black", 31 December) had considered a European "scheme" in which referees could be pooled to take charge of games in Europe.

Such use of officials works well in European competitions and could work successfully in individual national premier leagues. Following the rapid "internationalisation" of the Premiership (in players, coaches, managers), I suggest that this route should be considered as well as professional referees. Such a proposal would also improve our own refereeing standards by allowing them more European experience. As a referee of 10 years

experience, it is important to recognise the conservatism of the Football Association, but there is some hope that refereeing is beginning, albeit slowly, to move from mid-20th century postures to football reality of 1999. RICHARD SKELLINGTON, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes

No sense in sales policy at Palace

Sir: After Michael Owen, Matt Jansen is the most exciting young forward in the country. Don't just take that from Crystal Palace fans like me: ask Peter Taylor, manager of the England Under-21 team, or *Four Four Two* magazine, which recently voted him the best striker outside the Premiership.

Jansen had the chance last season to join Manchester United but chose instead to come to Palace, despite the fact that relegation from the Premiership looked likely. He recently signed a new long-term contract, says he enjoys working under Terry Venables and has apparently moved into a new home near the club's training ground. So why on earth are Palace

contemplating selling him to Newcastle United?

We Palace supporters are a long-suffering lot, but the sale of Jansen, particularly at a giveaway fee of £4m, would be the final straw. Since last summer we have witnessed the sale of a succession of good players - Marc Edworthy, Dean Gordon, Neil Shipperley and Bruce Dyer to name just four - to be replaced by vastly inferior signings. Venables might complain with some justification about a lack of transfer funds, but the fact is that he has still had plenty of money to spend.

The problem is that money has been spent on players like Lee Bradbury (£1.5m) and David Amisalem (£850,000) who are simply not up to the task. SUE DONATO, Croydon

Varsity teams not in right spirit

Sir: Is it not high time that the annual Cambridge v Oxford rugby union match became more, instead of less, true to the spirit of student rugby? At the risk of being proved wrong by your correspondent Alan Watkins, a contemporary of mine at

Cambridge in the 1950s, I seem to recall that the teams then were drawn mainly from young undergraduates, with only the occasional graduate "star" who had previously played at a higher level. The reverse seems to be the case today when, when quite a number of the players are in their mid-twenties, half frequently from Commonwealth countries, have already made their mark in club, national or even international rugby and may only be at university for a short time to enable them to study for various postgraduate qualifications.

It must be frustrating for those who have shown a great deal of talent at school or college level to realise that their chances of gaining a Blue at this sport are almost as unlikely as a fall of snow in the Sahara.

Would it not be better for the respective sides to be picked solely from undergraduates between the ages of, say, 18 and 22? The spectacle for the paying public might not be quite so attractive (though that is debatable) but at least the resultant match would give the appearance of being a more genuine contest between representatives of these two ancient universities.

Incidentally, the same remarks could probably be made with regard to the Boat Race. ANDREW J WOFFENDEN, Marple, Stockport, Cheshire

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n sigh

RACING
0891

Mujahid has chance in a millennium

THE LONGEST wait in racing is for the next stellar star to come along, the next Brigadier Gerard, Mill Reef or Nijinsky, horses which thrilled us almost 30 years ago. The wait, it seems, will go on for another year at least.

According to the official assessment of last year's two-year-olds there is little likelihood of a champion emerging before the millennium. At the International Classification in London yesterday it was revealed that the leading juvenile bloodstock of 1998 was the best match for many a year. The peleton is huge and no-one has yet broken away.

The ratings leader was the Dewhurst Stakes winner, Mujahid. But many of the Newmarket victims are at his shoulder, within Brutus distance. "I would be very surprised if there was a horse in this generation that proved massively superior," Matthew Tester, the British Horseracing Board's two-year-old handicapper, said. "We haven't got an outstanding horse."

"The Dewhurst didn't seem to settle the argument and even the horses we know, like Enrique and Stravinsky, look as though they gave a lot more to offer. When they were pitched into the Dewhurst, Enrique, in particular, had never led to fight or get in a battle."

"They can't all win the 2,000 Guineas, but I believe that if you look at the first four home in the Dewhurst it's possible they will all be rated higher next year. They have all got more to come. They could all be top class, if not all top class on the same day. We all look for the next superstar and that's why the Jewhurst was so hyped up be-

BY RICHARD EDMONDSON

cause you could make a case out for greatness for quite a few of them. But the answer is, at this stage, that none of them is the next superhorse."

Another set of figures hardly enhances Mujahid's prospects of winning the 2,000 Guineas. Of the last 17 juveniles to top the classifications, nine failed to win a Group One race at three. As the stock market in investment caveats suggests, past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future.

There is little succour either for Mujahid in the ante-post market. While the men who conduct the rigid, esoteric compilation of ratings may champion him, just about everyone else was more touched last year by Godolphin's Aljabr. That includes another bunch of cold hearts, the bookmakers, who have the Prix de la Salamandre winner as their winter favourite.

It will delight the layers that there is no horse with wings. Nothing kills betting like a long-range odds-on shot. "It's one of the most open winters we have seen for a long time," Tester added. "You can go down the list and consider eight horses who could win a Guineas. It's absolutely up for grabs."

Overall, it appears it was hardly a season to stimulate. Just about all the classifications' category leaders compared badly with their predecessors, and the Classic-winning quintet of King Of Kings, Cape Verdi, High-Rise, Shantoush and Nedawi are all considered below average.

Apparently the best British horse to race last year was Intikhab, who never contested a Group One race and did not ap-

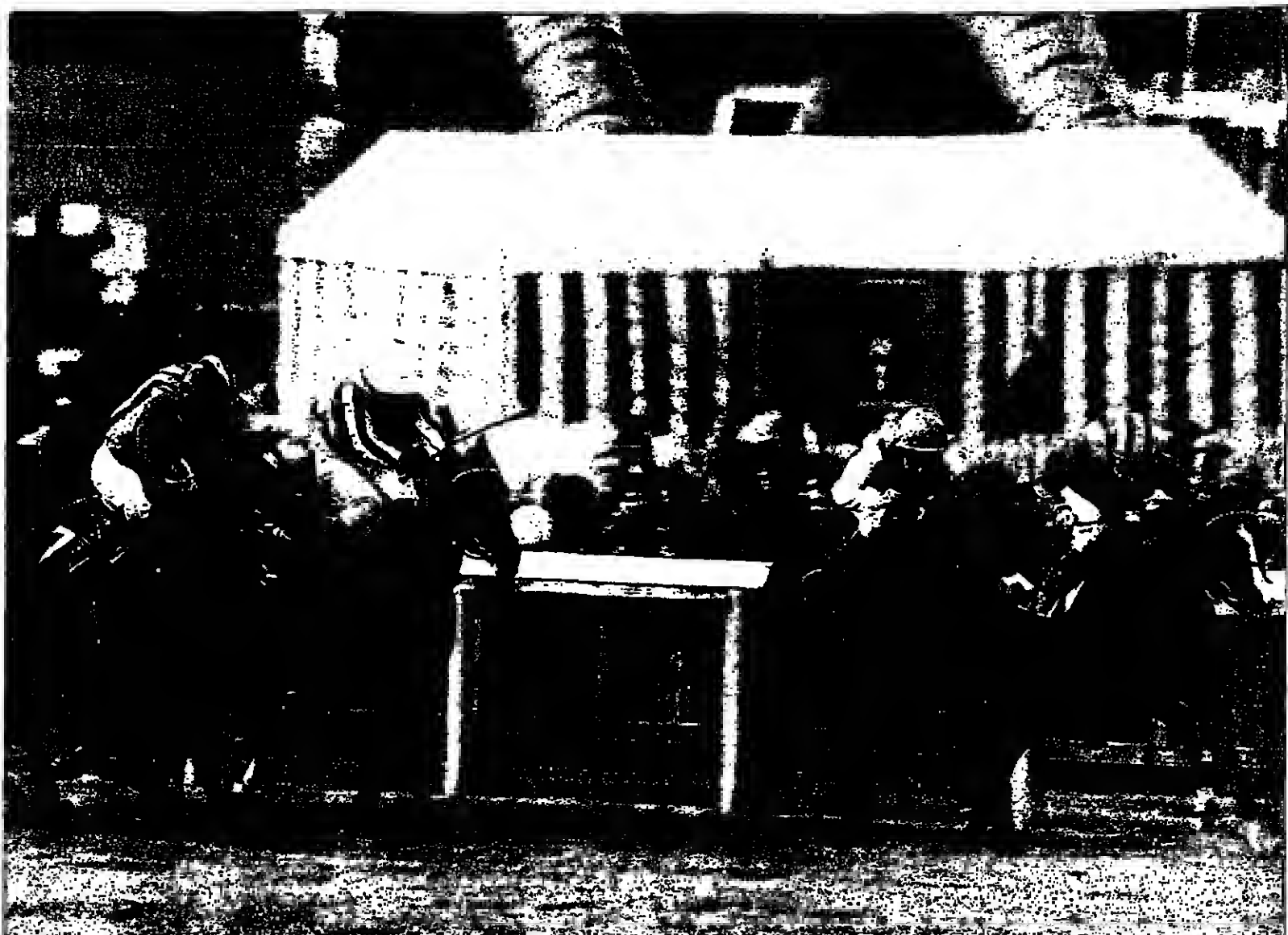
pear after his Queen Anne Stakes success at Royal Ascot because of splint problems.

There was no outstanding horse among the three-year-olds, and the crop leader, David Loder's Queen Elizabeth II winner Desert Prince, is hardly burned lastingly in the common mind. Sagarnix was well below the form which is usually required to win a Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and if they ran the race again over the pages of the classifications dossier High-Rise would come out on top.

Swain retires as perhaps the most versatile and consistent quality animal of the era. He has featured in four classifications rated at 122 or over and raced from 10 to 14 furlongs on dirt and turf. But the best older horse, and the best in the world, is reckoned to be another preparing for a breeding career in Kentucky, Skip Away.

The United States again provides a battery of horses both seasoned and brilliant, animals which are still around because of the beneficial prize-money across the Atlantic. And America is having a great impact in more ways than one. The classifications panel assessed about 900 horses from 14 nations during their nine-day sitting, and it seems to have told on some of them. Sheikh Mohammed will certainly be surprised to read in the report that Godolphin's 1,000 Guineas winner Cape Verdi was trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam.

Perhaps this was the effect of desert sun at the conference's base in Tucson, Arizona. Perhaps it was a consequence of a trip to the High Chaparral and slugs of red wine with big John Cannon, Buck Manolito and the boys.



In the frame: Mujahid, last year's top two-year-old, wins the Dewhurst Stakes at Newmarket from Auction House, Enrique and Stravinsky

INTERNATIONAL CLASSIFICATIONS

TWO-YEAR-OLD COLTS

Horse (Trainer)	Age	Sex	Weight	Rating	Notes
Mujahid (D. J. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	122	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	121	
Stravinsky (A. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	120	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	119	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	118	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	117	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	116	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	115	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	114	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	113	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	112	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	111	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	110	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	109	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	108	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	107	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	106	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	105	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	104	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	103	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	102	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	101	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	100	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	99	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	98	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	97	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	96	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	95	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	94	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	93	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	92	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	91	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	90	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	89	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	88	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	87	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	86	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	85	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	84	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	83	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	82	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	81	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	80	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	79	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	78	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	77	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	76	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	75	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	74	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	73	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	72	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	71	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	70	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	69	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	68	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	67	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	66	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	65	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	64	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	63	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	62	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	61	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	60	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	59	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	58	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	57	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	56	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	55	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	54	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	53	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	52	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	51	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	50	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	49	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	48	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	47	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	46	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	45	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	44	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	43	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	42	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	41	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	40	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	39	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	38	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	37	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	36	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	35	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	34	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	33	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	32	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	31	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	30	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	29	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	28	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	27	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	26	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	25	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	24	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	23	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	22	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	21	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	20	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	19	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	18	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	17	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	16	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	15	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	14	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	13	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	12	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	11	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	10	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	9	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	8	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	7	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	6	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	5	
Black Rock Desert (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	4	
Enrique (J. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	3	
Opus (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	2	
Commander Collins (P. Chapple-Hyam)	2	Colt	11.5	1	
Stravinsky (A. P. O'Brien)	2	Colt	11.5	0	

THREE-YEAR-OLD FILLIES

FILLIES	
Black Alloy (M Channon)	116
Melrose (John C Head/Fr)	114
Sorepangled (A P O'Brien/Fr)	114
Calando (D Lodge/Fr)	113
Ebony (J Ockel)	113
Comfite (J De Rouille/Fr)	112
Golden Slice (M Channon)	112
Wazirah Grand (J Nossed)	112

Focused England stick to game plan

ANY COACH whose side has knocked over their most formidable foes and the world champions in tight contests on consecutive days has a right to suspect his strategy may be bearing fruit. David Lloyd played it deadpan.

"I still think there's more to come," he said. "I want them to be more in the face than they are, to hustle more." He must have been repeating these phrases from some limited edition volume available only to those in the occupation of preparing sportsmen for battle. It is quite obviously a private language but a rough translation in this instance is that England must maintain their concentration and refuse to be distracted by any little plays the opposition might pull.

Lloyd is making the demands of his charges in the wake of the back-to-back victories in Brisbane over first Australia and then Sri Lanka in the Carlton & United Series. His

CRICKET
BY STEPHEN BRENKLEY
in Melbourne

cautious response to the unlikely scenario that they would be two up after two with eight to play probably derived from the fact that he has been with England for long enough to know that if they can come from behind when it is too late, as they have done frequently, then peaking too soon should be a dodgie.

But England have paraded some important qualities of stoicism and nerve this week which are invaluable if close one-dayers are to be won. It augurs well that they have done so while both bowling second and batting second.

Australia were behind but never quite out of it last Sunday with Michael Bevan, the most proficient one-day batsman around, still in. Having done the hard work early England did

not let it slip. If the howling stayed accurate the fielding was tigerish.

The run out of Shane Warne by Mark Alleyne, moving sharply and gracefully to his weaker side, was a lovely example of accuracy under severe pressure. Alleyne was not only making his debut at the age of 30 but earlier in the evening had made a hash of fielding a ball, twice slipping and stumbling over as he recovered it, much to the crowd's cruel amusement.

Norman Wisdom to Fred Astaire is never an easy transformation to pull off but Alleyne did it.

On the following evening Sri Lanka should have made more than 200 and England should have passed the total more easily. There was some concern that it would rain which briefly required more haste than the pursuers would have liked but at the last they retained enough of their composure. Muttiah

Muralitharan almost created havoc, just running out of overs in time. But it was again to Alleyne's credit that, despite being utterly mystified, a man who looked as though he was trying to enter Fort Knox with a nail file and wondered why the lock wouldn't turn, still kept plodding patiently on. The reborn Neil Fairbrother, of course, did the rest.

Wasim for Smethwick

A LEAGUE cricket club which usually attracts around 100 spectators is celebrating landing the current Pakistan Test captain, Wasim Akram, as its overseas professional.

The Birmingham Premier League outfit Smethwick have lured the 33-year-old all-rounder for the new season, and he is due to assume his duties as soon as Pakistan's involvement in this summer's World Cup in England is over.

It is rare for a side to win twice on successive nights at Brisbane in this series, not least because of the oppressive heat. To do so in such close matches as England did shows the side have fought left in them. Coming so soon after another Ashes series which might not have been a débâcle but which was nevertheless won and lost comfortably has dismayed but

not angered the Australian public, which is hardly besotted with its own team at present.

Betting scandals are part of the reason, but there is also a distinct impression that they feel the players have become too big for their boots. In Australia they cut tall poppies down.

This has not prevented immense interest in the series. The Gabba has been packed on three occasions. More than 17,000 watched Queensland play England last Friday and Australia play England on Sunday, while more than 12,000 turned up to watch England against Sri Lanka. The first meeting between Sri Lanka and the hosts at Sydney was a 40,000 sell-out and nearly 80,000 are expected in Melbourne on Friday for England v Australia, part two.

Lloyd has clearly warmed to the notion of the protracted triangular series which has been rubbished in some

quarters as advancing the cause of tedious cricket - although patently not on the evidence here so far. The point is, apart from skilful marketing and crowd appeal, that the best team wins in a long contest.

"It's good," said Lloyd. "I've never been part of a triangular series before unless you count last summer and that was just everybody playing each other once. Then we played Sri Lanka again in what was supposed to be a final. Here it'll be like a five-match Test series. Over the period you'll get the best side."

England's strategy for the World Cup in England in May is already in place, if not the personnel. That, Lloyd explained, was the thinking behind using as many players as they had lately. They wanted to examine different individuals for similar roles, to find first-choices and possible replacements. Their work may be nearly done.

"The old dressing room adage is go at 10 an over for the first 15 overs with the fielding restrictions, don't take any risks and don't lose any wickets," said Lloyd, conjuring up a kind of one-day Elysian field. "The other teams all want to do the same, score quickly at first, consolidate in the middle while the board ticks over, and hit at the end. But you've got to find the players to do it."

England are relaxed, a mood which always pervades a winning team, so there is still time for them to be exceedingly tetchy by next week. But the Ashes genuinely seems to have been put behind them.

"Maybe it was a fluke with the players coming from the Test side but we had a word and there hasn't been any looking backwards," Lloyd said.

Fast forward to taking on Australia in front of 80,000 at the MCG on Friday then and you cannot get much more in your face than that.

IOC stands by Salt Lake City

THE International Olympic Committee confirmed yesterday that the 2002 Winter Games would remain with Salt Lake City despite allegations of bribery and corruption levelled at some of the organisers.

Officials in the American city have admitted paying for the housing, travel and education of relatives of IOC members as well as giving expensive gifts and free health care. Yesterday the IOC spokeswoman Michele Verdier said: "The IOC has made it clear the Games will not be withdrawn from Salt Lake City."

She added that a suggestion by Switzerland's veteran IOC member Marc Hodler that the city might lose the Games because of a \$350m (£216m) shortfall resulting from the scandal were made in a personal capacity and she denied there were financial problems.

Hodler, 80, started the furore when he said last month that agents offered candidates blocs of votes for millions of dollars. Following his comments and reports of inducements allegedly offered to some of the IOC members involved in the selection, the president of the Salt Lake City Organising Committee and his deputy resigned.

The president in question, Tom Welch, has admitted he had a \$330,000 fund to finance offerings to Olympic officials worldwide. Welch was forced to stand down in August 1997, after being charged with financial abuse. He admitted giving \$33,000 to Jean-Claude Ganga, an IOC member from the Republic of Congo, who said he needed money to help his homeland's children fight civil strife. But Welch claimed: "We never bribed anybody. We never bought a vote."

The IOC has launched its own internal investigation on the corruption charges, and

OLYMPIC GAMES
BY ROBERT EVANS

Verdier said the results of these would be released after an executive board meeting on 24 or 25 January. The IOC president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, speaking in Warsaw, promised to punish any IOC members implicated in the scandal. "We are going to act very fast," he is reported to have told members of Poland's Olympic Committee. "If it turns out the behaviour of some IOC members were reprehensible they will have to bear the consequences."

There have been claims that up to 12 members of the IOC may be forced to resign once the investigations are complete. But a leading member of the Sydney 2000 Games organising committee has called on Samaranch to ignore calls for his own resignation. Samaranch has come under fire from the former New South Wales Olympics minister Bruce Baird. But Australian IOC member Phil Coles, who yesterday resigned from his consultancy role with the hotel group due to house Olympic officials in Sydney, said: "He won't resign, and we don't want him to. I've been saying all along... if there's a half-dozen corrupt politicians the prime minister doesn't resign."

Baird warned Samaranch "the buck always stops with someone" but says Sydney bid officials never went as far as to provide and pay for prostitutes for IOC members, as Salt Lake City bid organisers allegedly did.

Meanwhile, Rene Paquet, the former head of the Quebec City bid committee which lost out to Salt Lake City, says the Canadian city may sue the IOC because the rules on the bid contract were broken.



Andrew Freshwater wins the downhill event of the British Land National Alpine Ski Championships in Tignes, France, yesterday

Allsport

Maier denies Raich's slalom hat-trick

HERMANN MAIER kept his word and held his nerve in Adelboden, Switzerland, yesterday to win a World Cup giant slalom ahead of his team-mate Benjamin Raich.

Austria's Olympic champion had promised retribution after finishing third in a giant slalom on his home hill in Flachau on Sunday behind the victorious newcomer, Raich. Maier kept his pledge by collecting his sixth victory of the season.

It was his second giant slalom victory of the season and his second in two years on Adelboden's treacherous Knochelberg piste, with a two-run combined time of 2min 12.66sec.

SKIING
BY STEVE KEATING

Norway's Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Maier's main rival in the overall World Cup standings, kept the pressure on the double Olympic champion by crossing second in 2:12.94. It was his first podium finish in giant slalom this season. He finished third in a slalom in Schladming last week.

Raich - leader after the first leg and chasing his third win in six days - had to settle for third, with 2:13.14.

Bothered by a sore back that forced him to take

painkillers before the race, Maier admitted he had been considering skipping the next races in Wengen and Kitzbuehel to rest before next month's World Championships in Vail, Colorado.

However, with Aamodt so close behind, the former bricklayer said he would talk to the team doctors. "I'm not sure about my programme - I'll make a decision this evening," said Maier, who leads the overall rankings with 911 points, 228 clear of Aamodt. "I have to think seriously about it because Aamodt is so close now."

Switzerland's Michael Von Gruenigen retained the lead

from Maier in the giant slalom standings by two points.

Second after the first leg, Maier was at his best on his second run down the piste, showing no signs of pain or discomfort to record 1:06.86.

Raich also charged down the course but a costly error near the start of his run denied the 30-year-old another victory.

"I had no problem with the pressure," shrugged Raich, a five-time junior world champion. "I've raced from the front before and know that kind of pressure. I'm just pleased to be on the podium after making a mistake at the top of the course."

Until yesterday's victory, the slightly built Raich had overshadowed the powerful Maier through the first few weeks of 1999.

Raich, who claimed his maiden World Cup win in a night slalom in Schladming last Thursday before a giant slalom victory in Flachau, had suddenly found himself at the centre of media attention.

"I'm happy for Benjamin," said Maier. "His success takes pressure away from me. I've had less work to do away from the hill because Benjamin is so popular."

Results, Digest, page 25

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TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated

FA CUP

(Sponsored by AXA)

THIRD ROUND REPLAYS

Fulham v Southampton (7.45)

Leeds v Rotherham & Diamonds (7.45)

Swansea v West Ham (7.45)

TENNESSEE SCOTCH CUP

Queen's Park v Clackmannan

SCOTTLAND LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

Andrie v Greenock Morton

GREENOCK DIVISION

Partick v Alloa (7.45)

FA CHALLENGERS CUP

Bowers v Woodbridge (at Bitterley Town FC)

COLORADO COUNTY ANTHRO SHIELD

Steele v Clackmannan (at Clackmannan)

WELSH CHALLENGERS CUP

Cardiff City v Edinburgh (7.15)

Pool v Brighouse v Glasgow Celtic (7.15)

RUGBY UNION

WELSH CHALLENGERS CUP

Cardiff City v Edinburgh (7.15)

Pool v Brighouse v Glasgow Celtic (7.15)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE

Newcastle Eagles v Milton Keynes Lions (7.0)

UNI-BALL TROPHY Group A: Thames Valley Tigers v Leicester Riders (8.0)

OTHER SPORTS

BOWLS: World Indoor Singles Championships (Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk)

SNOWMOBILES: Qualifying for Regal Scottish Open, British Open and World Championships (Warwick Castle Hotel, Warwick)

ARNOFFIT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedfordshire Terriers v South Shields

SCOTTLAND LEAGUE Second Division: Bishop Auckland v Farnley Celtic

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE First Division: Leek CSOB v Cheshire League Cup second round: Alton Collieries v St. Helens

UNIVERSITY SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Hailsham v Eastbourne Town

SCOTTLAND LEAGUE Premier Division: Bridport v Bournemouth

JERSEY EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Jersey Wanderers v Farnborough Port & Town

ARNOFFIT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Bedfordshire Terriers v South Shields

Court to set Sailor sum

THE AUSTRALIAN Test winger Wendell Sailor is facing a High Court damages award after reneging on a deal to play for Wigan.

The former Brisbane Broncos, now playing rugby union for Leeds Tykes, signed a two-year deal with Wigan 12 months ago but then changed his mind after his return to Australia.

Sailor took the case to court and the court ruled that he had broken his contract with Wigan, claiming he knew nothing of the move.

Wigan survived a slow start to beat Inverurie, a late replacement for his fellow Channel Islander Adrian Welch. Inverurie started well and

RUGBY LEAGUE

The High Court will now be asked to decide on the amount of damages. Wigan are seeking in excess of £30,000.

The Wigan chairman, Peter Norbury, said: "There will have to be a hearing to determine the amount. I expect that to take place in Manchester in the next few weeks."

Sailor, who was hoping to settle out of court, could be back home in Brisbane by the time of the hearing. He will play his

final home game for Leeds in Sunday's Allied Dunbar Premiership Two fixture with Fylde and is expected to complete his three-month stint in the Tedy's Bitter Cup fifth round tie at Leicester on 30 January.

Wigan had threatened to take out an injunction to prevent Sailor turning out against them for Leeds Rhinos in the Grand Final last October but, in the event, he was not selected.

Ford will sponsor the First Division for the 1999 season.

Syme goes through with ease

SANDY SYME, last year's Scottish champion, eased through to the second round of the World Indoor Championship in Hopton-on-Sea, Norfolk, yesterday, with a straight sets victory over Guernsey's Paul Ingham.

Syme survived a slow start to beat Ingham, a late replacement for his fellow Channel Islander Adrian Welch. Inverurie started well and

moved into a 5-1 lead in the opening set, but Syme came back to snatch a 7-6 win. The Scot then took command, winning the next two sets 7-1 in a total of nine ends.

Jason Greenslade, the world No 23, narrowly beat Neil Collett, his Cardiff club-mate, in the first round on Monday night. Greenslade lost the first set 7-4

and trailed 0-5 in the second before recovering to win it 7-6.

"That really got to me - I thought I should have been two sets to nothing up and I had nothing to show for dominating the match up to that point," Collett said.

Greenslade then restricted Collett to just one cent in the third set as he won it 7-3 before repeating the scoreline in the next to seal his success.

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Atkinson makes Palmer a priority

RON ATKINSON, the new Nottingham Forest manager, has moved swiftly to bring in fresh recruits as he attempts to keep the City Ground club in the Premier League.

Atkinson has tabled a bid for the Southampton midfielder, Carlton Palmer. The Saints' manager, Dave Jones, confirmed that the former England man, who has been unable to settle on the south coast, is set for a move to Nottingham.

Atkinson and Palmer have previously worked together at West Bromwich and Sheffield Wednesday. "He leads by example, closes people down and covers every blade of grass," Jones said of Palmer, whom he signed from Leeds for £1m in September 1997.

Palmer at one stage looked set to join Barnsley, only for the deal to fall through when the Yorkshire club's full-back, Darren Barnard, refused a deal which would have taken him to The Dell.

The Aston Villa manager, John Gregory, has received a boost with the news that the club's backers are ready to support his quest to sign Juninho, Atletico Madrid's unsettled Brazilian forward.

Villa's financial director, Mark Ansell, said: "The board have already confirmed to John Gregory that, should the players become available that he wants, then he can bank on our support. It is down to the fantastic success of the last 12 months that makes it even more possible to support further purchasing of players."

Gregory, who has spent £21m in the last six months, knows that he may have to spend over £10m to bring Juninho, once of Middlesbrough, back to England.

Chelsea's influential midfielder Gustavo Poyet has been ruled out of action for three months. The Uruguayan is recovering from knee surgery after damaging medial ligaments following a challenge by Southampton's Moroccan forward Hassan Kachoul in Chelsea's 2-0 victory at The Dell on Boxing Day.

Ian Wright was last night undergoing an operation on his knee. The West Ham striker, who damaged his cartilage during the FA Cup third-round tie at home to Swansea, is likely to be out for four to six weeks.

The Bolton Wanderers manager, Colin Todd, has accused Arnar Gunnlaugsson of "pure greed" after the Icelandic striker rejected the club's new contract offer. "He's advised by his agent that he can get a certain number of pounds and that seems to be what he's holding out for - but we've made our final offer," Todd said. "We are not in the Premiership, we are a First Division club."

Sheffield Wednesday's Northern Ireland international midfielder Jim Magilton has joined Ipswich Town on a month's loan, and will make his debut in the First Division game at Sunderland on Sunday.

Sheffield United's former Everton midfielder, John Ebbrell, has been forced to retire due to an ankle injury.

Ian Stott intends to concentrate on his campaign to become chairman of the Football Association, following his resignation as Oldham Athletic's chairman.

Stott stood down on Monday following a board meeting at Boundary Park, when he admitted causing the club embarrassment over his claims that the Lancs were in merger talks with their neighbours, Bury and Rochdale. All three clubs were quick to deny Stott's claims that secret negotiations were taking place.

Stott remains on the Oldham board as vice-chairman and has swapped roles with David Brerley, who steps up to become chairman. Stott, who is a member of the FA's management committee, announced his quest to succeed Keith Wiseman at the FA last week.

Knights aim to ride out Storm

The old dressing room at the City Ground was a place of many memories. It was here that Ron Atkinson first met the players. It was here that he learned the club's traditions. It was here that he learned the club's secrets. It was here that he learned the club's strengths and weaknesses. It was here that he learned the club's history. It was here that he learned the club's future.



Peter Shreeves (right), Nottingham Forest's new assistant manager, has the players smiling in his first training session yesterday. Empics

Goram signs for Motherwell

THE FORMER Scotland and Glasgow Rangers goalkeeper, Andy Goram, last night ended eight months of uncertainty by signing for Motherwell - and then revealed that it was fear of ending up injured that led to his dramatic walk-out before the World Cup.

Goram will return to Scottish football after a turbulent period following his last appearance in the country in the Scottish Cup final in May last year.

Goram has since had a brief spell at Notts County and a two-month loan period at Sheffield United but recently saw a move to join his former Ibrox teammate, Brian Laudrup, at FC Copenhagen fall through.

His legacy to the Scottish game, however, appeared to be his decision to abandon Scotland's pre-World Cup training camp in Colorado and retire from international football amid allegations about his private life.

After signing on at Motherwell until the end of the season, however, the 34-year-old indicated the uncertainty over his future beyond the World Cup finals and Craig Brown's apparent preference for Jim Leighton were crucial factors in his decision.

"Retired from international football and it wasn't accepted. But Jim Leighton did the same and it was okay," he said. "It was the way people construed it. Whether that had an effect on what has happened since or not I don't know, but I made my decision at the time and I don't regret it."

"People said that I was still the No 1, but I was probably not the most important person's No 1."

"I had been told indirectly that was no longer the case and

I had gone off to France and got injured. I could have had no club for nine months."

His return to Scottish football now suggests a desire to re-establish his former reputation, but Goram was quick to dispel any idea of an international comeback.

"Once you retire, you retire," he declared.

"You can't pick and choose your games. That is just part of history now, and I've probably got more chance of playing in the cricket World Cup."

"Besides, Scotland are sorted out for goalkeepers with Jonathan (Gould) and Neil (Sullivan) and the young lad at Dundee, Robert Douglas. They have got plenty to choose from."

Goram insisted he never despaired of finding another club, despite the apparent reluctance of managers to con-

Brazil fears player exodus

BY ANDREW WARSHAW
in Cannes

A SENIOR Brazilian football official warned yesterday that the game in his country could be plunged into crisis over plans for a Bosman-style law giving players freedom of movement when their contracts end.

Jaime Franco, executive director of Brazil's major club union, the União das Grandes Clubes Brasileiros, said football in the four times World Cup-winning nation risked being seriously undermined if the scheme were allowed to go ahead in two years' time.

Franco said that at the end of 2001, a new Brazilian law would, if passed, allow all players over the age of 20 to move abroad at the end of their contracts without any financial reward to the clubs that had nurtured them.

"We are fighting this because there will be an exodus of players," Franco said. "Brazil has the best players in the world but they will all go to Europe to get more money. That would be disastrous. If we don't have good players, we risk losing our sponsors and our television contracts. It would be a crisis for Brazilian football."

Franco, speaking at the Football Expo conference here, also bemoaned the increasing number of teenagers who, he said, were already leaving Brazil before even signing their first professional contracts, lured by agents of rich European clubs.

"We have around 400 youngsters aged 15 and 16 who are already in Europe, mostly in Germany, Belgium and Switzerland," Franco said. "Agents come over to look at these boys, whose development grows as quickly as grass, and offer them crazy opportunities. Their parents have no jobs so they take the money."

A three-week strike by Greek clubs demanding more state subsidies has been called off for the next two weeks. First, Second and Third Division matches will be played this weekend and the next, officials said.

"During this period we will resume talks with the sports under-secretary and we believe we will reach an agreement. If not, our action could be repeated," a spokesman representing the clubs' union said.

The clubs began their strike on 20 December to push for a greater share of earnings from state-organised football pools and the immediate payment of around \$1bn (£617m), a sum owed to them by the sports ministry from last season. The sports under-secretary, Andreas Fournas said last week he would consider the demands, softening his original position at the start of the strike when he described them as ridiculous. Most clubs face serious economic problems this season with half-empty stadiums during matches after allegations of corruption and a number of incidents involving hooligans.

Medean referees, accused of insulting players, may be asked to wear microphones. The Argentinean midfielder Antonio Mohamed, captain of First Division Monterrey put forward the plan after claiming players were often verbally abused by referees. The idea, proposed during a meeting of team captains and referees, was approved by the officials themselves.

Leeds' injury problems mount

DAVID BATTY, the Leeds United midfielder, will be out of action for at least another month because of his rib injury, it was revealed yesterday.

Batty, who was the first signing of the new Leeds manager, David O'Leary, broke a rib on his debut in his return to the club - the 2-0 home win over Coventry on 14 December. The news comes before tonight's FA Cup third-round replay with Rushden & Diamonds, and Batty is the latest in a long line of Leeds players to be ruled out through injury.

O'Leary has also lost central defenders Robert Moleaer - who undergoes surgery today - and Martin Hiden to season-long knee ligament damage.

O'Leary is also almost certain not to risk Lucas Radebe for the game at Elland Road, because he has only played 70 minutes in the reserves since his own knee injury, also sustained against Coventry.

Jonathon Woodgate, another central defender, is also very doubtful with a thigh strain which forced him out of Saturday's 1-0 defeat at Blackburn. O'Leary is left with only David Wetherall as a recognised central defender.

On the subject of Batty's injury, O'Leary said: "David has been training with us but his broken rib is still painful, so he will be out for at least another month. I don't know when our injury jinx is going to let up and

Tigana shocks Monaco

THE MONACO coach, Jean Tigana, has resigned because of the 1997 French champions' poor results this season.

"He came to see me yesterday and said he wanted to quit. He didn't wish to go on," the club's chairman, Jean-Louis Campora, said yesterday. "Now we have to focus on the next match, at Lens on Saturday, which is far more important."

Tigana's duties have been taken over by the technical manager, Claude Puel, former goalkeeper Jean-Luc Ettori and the deputy coach, Jean Petit.

Petit said: "We have had to take emergency measures because nobody expected this. We needed to react swiftly."

Tigana, a former French international, joined Monaco as coach in July 1995 but has had a frustrating season.

Monaco are seventh in the French first division, 19 points behind the leaders, Marseilles, and out of contention for a place in the Champions' League next season. They were beaten in the UEFA Cup by Marseilles in December.

"This is the players' fault. We are responsible for what happened here (to Tigana)," the goalkeeper, Fabien Barthez, said. "But we must respect Tigana's decision."

Barthez is one of several players, including Thierry Henry and David Trézéguet, who have made it clear recently that they were unhappy and wanted to leave the club.

Tigana, capped 53 times,

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Ray Rhodes, who was dismissed by the Philadelphia Eagles immediately following a dismal season in which only three games were won, has been hired as head coach of the Green Bay Packers.

ATHLETICS

Two of Africa's greatest athletes will swap distances in an attempt to break each other's records at the Bupa Indoor Grand Prix in Birmingham on 14 February 14. Daniel Komen, the world and Commonwealth 5,000 metres champion from Kenya, will make an assault on Haile Gebrselassie's 2,000m world indoor record. Ethiopia's Gebreselassie will attempt to break Komen's 5,000m record.

Iwan Thomas, the European and Commonwealth 400m champion, has been named Welsh Sports Personality of 1998.

FOOTBALL

England beat Turkey 2-0 yesterday in their under-16 international in Izmir. Both England goals were scored by the Barnsley youngster Rory Fallon.

The Dutchman Stefan Postma, the Utrecht goalkeeper for whom Liverpool are considering a £700,000 move, has a run out for the Anfield club's reserves at Preston tonight.

Wolves are giving trials to the fourth-choice Liverpool goalkeeper, Jorgen Nielsen, and the Greek central defender Dimitris Argypopoulos.

Nielsen, a Dane, cost Liverpool £400,000 from Hvidovre two years ago but he has yet to make a first-team appearance at Anfield.

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP

Second-round draw: Le Havre v Lens; Sochaux v Nancy; Chateauroux v Montpellier; Monaco v Paris St-Germain; Amiens v Auxerre; Metz v Lorient; Caen v Valenciennes; Rennes v Troyes.

CRICKET

SECOND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONAL (Naples, 12th day/night match): New Zealand 213 (49.3 overs); India 216 for 8 (49.5 overs). India won by two wickets after a run chase.

TOUR MATCHES

India 5th Test day: India 220 (5 C Williams 57, 307 (P A Wallace 57, 8 C Lara 53, C L Hooper 70, C M Watling 5-50); Sri Lanka 135 (R Langa 4-55) and 123 for 5, match draws.

FOOTBALL

England beat Turkey 2-0 yesterday in their under-16 international in Izmir. Both England goals were scored by the Barnsley youngster Rory Fallon.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL Montreal vs St Louis 1: Washington 4 NY Islanders 3; Ottawa 6 New Jersey 2; Philadelphia 8 Nashville 0; Phoenix 1 Buffalo 0; San Jose 4 Los Angeles 4.

GOLF

The European Ryder Cup Committee is expected to confirm later this week that the 2005 Cup will be hosted by the K Club in Straffan, County Kildare.

ICE HOCKEY

NHL Montreal vs St Louis 1: Washington 4 NY Islanders 3; Ottawa 6 New Jersey 2; Philadelphia 8 Nashville 0; Phoenix 1 Buffalo 0; San Jose 4 Los Angeles 4.

RALLYING

DANISH RALLY (1,032km including 430km tarmac stages, Wexho, Sweden, 12th day): 1st stage, 1st run: 1st M. W. 17min 11sec, 2nd M. P. 17min 11sec, 3rd M. P. 17min 11sec, 4th M. P. 17min 11sec, 5th M. P. 17min 11sec, 6th M. P. 17min 11sec, 7th M. P. 17min 11sec, 8th M. P. 17min 11sec, 9th M. P. 17min 11sec, 10th M. P. 17min 11sec, 11th M. P. 17min 11sec, 12th M. P. 17min 11sec, 13th M. P. 17min 11sec, 14th M. P. 17min 11sec, 15th M. P. 17min 11sec, 16th M. P. 17min 11sec, 17th M. P. 17min 11sec, 18th M. P. 17min 11sec, 19th M. P. 17min 11sec, 20th M. P. 17min 11sec, 21st M. P. 17min 11sec, 22nd M. P. 17min 11sec, 23rd M. P. 17min 11sec, 24th M. P. 17min 11sec, 25th M. P. 17min 11sec, 26th M. P. 17min 11sec, 27th M. P. 17min 11sec, 28th M. P. 17min 11sec, 29th M. P. 17min 11sec, 30th M. P. 17min 11sec, 31st M. P. 17min 11sec, 32nd M. P. 17min 11sec, 33rd M. P. 17min 11sec, 34th M. P. 17min 11sec, 35th M. P. 17min 11sec, 36th M. P. 17min 11sec, 37th M. P. 17min 11sec, 38th M. 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SPORT

END OF THE ROAD FOR JORDAN P20 • LLOYD'S WINNING FORMULA P24

FA Cup
hit by
onset of
winter

WINTER MADE its presence felt for first time in sport south of the border yesterday with two out of three FA Cup replays being postponed and racing losing meetings at Newcastle and Leicester.

Scotland lost eight League and Cup games on Saturday, but England had yet to catch a cold. Barnsley's third-round replay against Swindon Town fell victim to a frozen pitch, which will have brought home to the First Division club the value of the under-soil heating they have yet to compete at Oakwell.

Pipework was laid in the summer, with the boiler due to be added when the Kop stand is rebuilt later this year. The Cup tie, which has the reward of a fourth-round home tie against Bournemouth for the winners, has been rescheduled for next Tuesday.

Notts County's replay against Sheffield United was called off after the waterlogged Meadow Lane pitch failed a lunchtime inspection. The game will now be played next Wednesday, with the victors meeting either Yeovil or Cardiff.

The only racing yesterday was at Lingfield's all-weather track and punters have already been denied a flutter at Sedgfield today. Two meetings remain - at Wolverhampton's all-weather course and Kempton, where the prospects are good.



The bad weather may have put paid to any National Hunt racing in Britain yesterday, but the conditions did not prevent horses working out on Middleham Moor in Yorkshire

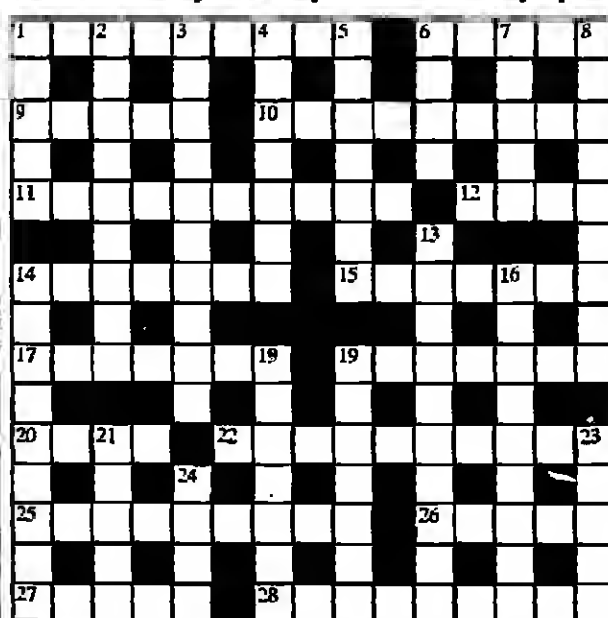
John Giles/PA

THE WEDNESDAY CROSSWORD

No 3318 Wednesday 13 January

by Aquila

Tuesday's Solution



DOGFISH VICIOUS
TURKEY LULS
VISTA YELLOWISH
TYPUS SE
SNAREDRUM ENROL
O T E C A
HOIST STOMACHER
RE T B L V
DAVSCHOOL LEFER
E H T E E
BATON LIVESWIRE
A T I T H A P
CRESCENDO ELOPE
L T A E U E L C
EGHELON SALTIENT

- ACROSS**
- Cruel policy of people kept separate, hide being different (9)
 - Pot plant (5)
 - Composer not finishing meal? (5)
 - Does its young damage orchards all over the place? (5,4)
 - One's feet always cold on these sheets? (10)
 - Maximum temperature in freezer, obviously (4)
 - Cheerful progress by main road (7)
 - This among the pliers that pick up? (7)
 - Shylock's daughter's case is put off to first of January (7)
 - Appointment in advertising (7)

- DOWN**
- Sea Change - work of allegorist (5)
 - Vegetable with a well-inverted sugar (9)
 - Constable's work that impressed the field (3,4)
 - For example, getting up in primitive setting -
 - Firm street-price (4)
 - Narrow, fashionable and ready-to-wear? (10)
 - Individuals in Bharat - Asian republic (9)
 - Master with a department (5)
 - Scott's cry, indicative of welcome (5)
 - Perfect specimen of carp, yet he's slipping away (9)

- ACROSS**
- with enthusiasm (7)
 - First instalment is put up in warehouse (7)
 - However, dolls too can be treated in this hospital (4)
 - A rambler, say, climbed up (5)
 - The case for the comprehensives? (9)
 - How to vex a peer? Taxes, unjustly applied (10)
 - Diverting aircraft, up, with means of lifting (9)
 - Dishonest practice, putting tricky bends on railway (9)
 - One cannot recall having it (7)
 - What makes Capri so dry? (7)
 - Grass edges cut (5)
 - It's going up on the tenth (5)
 - Granny is potassium-negative (4)

Wilkinson's youth
call-up 'cheats fans'

HOWARD WILKINSON is on a collision course with club managers who fear he will pick their top young players for two competitions during a crucial part of the season.

Wilkinson, the Football Association's technical director, has even been accused of cheating fans by Peter Ridsdale, the chairman of Leeds United - the club he used to manage.

The World Under-20 Championship is taking place in Nigeria in April, and potentially Wilkinson could have a strong England side at his disposal, with Aston Villa's Gareth Barry, Joe Cole of West Ham and even Michael Owen eligible for selection.

As a full international, Owen is not likely to be included for the three-week tournament, which runs from 3 to 24 April. However, Wilkinson is eager to name the strongest possible squad - and Leeds look set to be particularly hard hit.

The defender Jonathon Woodgate, the striker Alan Smith and the goalkeeper Paul Robinson have all been integral parts of the first-team plans of the Leeds manager, David O'Leary, this season - but the Elland Road club could be deprived of all three. The situation has prompted an angry response from Ridsdale, who believes that, although the

FOOTBALL
BY TOMMY STANFORTH

tournament is a worthwhile event, young players currently experiencing life in the first team would benefit more by staying in England.

"It is very important that players of 18 and 19 who are not in the first team should get as much experience as possible and they can get that through playing in this tournament," he said. "But I think that players who have emerged into first-team football in the Premier-

ship shouldn't be taken away at a time when your whole season is being determined.

"Championships, FA Cups and European places are being determined and if Howard Wilkinson takes these players then he is cheating the fans, who have paid their season ticket money, and putting the future of individual clubs at risk."

Any player selected for the competition would miss five scheduled Premiership matches, plus the possibility of an FA Cup semi-final and replay. The likes of Wes Brown from Manchester United could also be

forced to sit out a European Cup semi-final.

An already unattractive dilemma for Wilkinson became even worse with yesterday's news that the World Under-18 Championship qualifying tournament - postponed to Israel in November because of the political situation in the Middle East - will now take place in March. From 7 to 14 March, England will compete against the new host nation, Spain, Andorra and Israel - and if they go through they will have to play a two-legged play-off on 31 March and 28 April. Woodgate

would also be a prime candidate for that competition as well.

The Leeds manager has left Wilkinson in no doubt where his priorities should lie. "I am prepared to fight this all the way," O'Leary said. "We are striving to qualify for Europe again, so if we were to lose so many of our players it would be a joke."

"As well as being potentially damaging, those players are regularly involved with the first team and hopefully will be challenging for honours with us in April," the Irishman added. "What do the FA think these players will learn in Nigeria? There is no comparison to playing in the Premiership."

In contrast to Leeds, Liverpool have had some good news with regard to an international tournament. It was believed that Cameroon would require the defender Rigobert Song on 24 January, when the Anfield side face a fourth-round FA Cup tie at Old Trafford against Manchester United.

However, the 22-year-old Song, who has agreed a £2.8m move from the Italian Serie A club Salernitana and is now waiting for the Department of Employment to issue a work permit, has to serve a two-match international ban and is unable to play for Cameroon in their African Nations' Cup fixture that weekend.

More football, page 25

Murdoch backs Blatter plan

THE MEDIA tycoon Rupert Murdoch has backed a controversial proposal by Sepp Blatter, the president of football's global governing body, Fifa, to hold the World Cup every two years.

However, Murdoch has suggested there could be one major difference - that it is disputed by clubs, not countries. "I think the World Cup is a great international event, and there's no reason why it shouldn't be every second year," Murdoch, whose Sky television company wants to buy Manchester United, said. "If we don't have a World Cup between countries

every two years, maybe it will be right to have - in between the quadrennial World Cup that you have today - a World Cup of clubs."

"Football is so strong and so popular in so many parts of the world that we should see major international competition more than every four years," Murdoch added.

Uefa yesterday rejected Blatter's World Cup plan, saying it would have "negative consequences." European football's ruling body "not only objected to the idea but also condemned the way the project was presented, without prior

consultation of any of the relevant bodies."

Uefa is "of the opinion that the project would produce negative consequences in sporting, medical and commercial contexts and have a damaging effect on domestic competitions."

Uefa countered that "there are other ways" of strengthening national teams and federations, and it "noted with regret that the project could be a matter of personal prestige."

Fifa will this week try to synchronize major competitions like the European Championship, the Copa America and the African Nations' Cup.

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WEDNESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

BY RICHARD
WILLIAMS

Look at him," said Tommy Brooks, gesturing across the room at the squat figure in a black T-shirt, black boots and lime-green bikini briefs standing next to a rack of punchbags, in animated conversation with a group of friends. "See how happy he is? The guy's happy. Before, there was a lot of turmoil. He was always looking over his shoulder. He was unhappy. But he was telling me the other day — he said: 'Man, things have been going so great that I just know something wrong is going to happen.'"

"Happy" is not a word generally associated with Mike Tyson, the man in the lime-green briefs. For almost 10 years now, ever since the night in Tokyo when Buster Douglas knocked him down and took away his immortality, the name of Tyson has been exclusively linked with trouble. Think of Tyson and you no longer think of a supremely gifted boxer. You think of guilt, rage, shame, retribution, scorn and disgrace. You think of things going wrong.

Tommy Brooks is the latest trainer charged with the responsibility of overseeing Tyson's attempt to regain his lost crown. On Saturday night in Las Vegas, the former undisputed heavyweight champion of the world meets François Botha of South Africa, christened The White Buffalo by the man who once managed both fighters, the egregious Don King. There are no titles at stake this weekend. Yet Tyson's drawing-power is such that he will earn around £15m for his night's work, the result of his continuing ability to persuade cable television subscribers that when he enters the ring, something memorable happens.

It is, after all, a reasonable claim. This is the same ring in which, during his last fight 18 months ago, Tyson lowered himself to a new level of infamy by taking a bite out of each of Evander Holyfield's ears — for which he earned a disqualification, a fine and a suspension. The same ring in which, the previous year, he had stopped Bruce Seldon in the opening round before rushing from the arena to the emergency room of the nearby University Medical Center to see his friend Tupac Shakur, the rap star, die after a shooting incident en route to a post-fight party.

But Tyson is unlike any other contemporary sportsman or woman in the way that the narrative of his career *diverts observers into consideration of matters that have nothing at all to do with sport*. Throughout this decade his behaviour has consistently raised social and moral issues that go far beyond the questions raised elsewhere by mundane displays of cheating, bad manners and the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

Not least, his existence reminds us - us white people, that is - of a world to which we cannot belong, a world with its own codes and language, a parallel and self-sustaining world born of 400 years of exclusion and alienation and now fiercely, truculently, proud of its survival.

When Tyson was sentenced to three years in the slammer for raping the teenage beauty queen Desiree Washington, the case aroused debate over issues including the relationship between black men and black women, male-female sexual etiquette in general, the use and abuse of celebrity, and the distorting effect of such celebrity on an individual's behaviour.

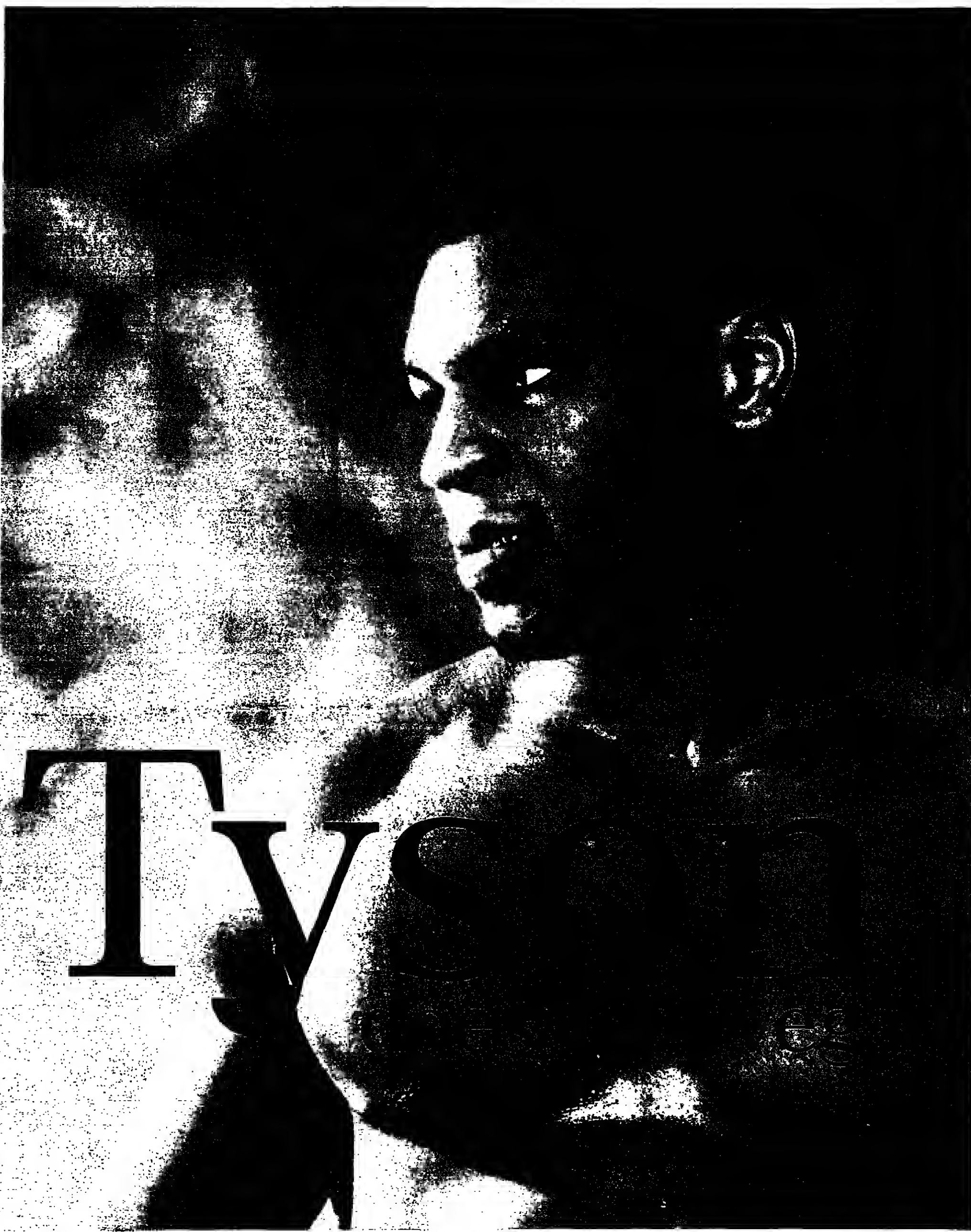
And you would still have trouble finding two people to agree on whether or not he did it, or at least whether what he did was, in the circumstances, a crime. Tyson's white admirers have long tried to defend him against the legion of sceptics by emphasising his intellectual curiosity, as exemplified by a profound knowledge and understanding of boxing - the history, picked up from his first trainer, Cus D'Amato, and his early managers, Jim Jacobs and Bill Cayton - the team that took a teenage hoodlum from the Brownsville housing projects and turned him into the most formidable prizefighter on earth. The argument goes that a man who talks with such intense and sympathetic eloquence about his heroes can hardly be the brute presented to the public; he must, instead, have been brutalised by his environment.

By itself this is not much of an argument (although its conclusion may be accurate), but it does give Tyson an undeniably appealing side. He showed it again this week, when drawn into a conversation about the era in which title fights lasted 50, 60 or even 100 rounds. The sheer endurance of the men who underwent such tests clearly fired his imagination, and he talked enthusiastically about the fights between Joe Gangs, a black lightweight from Baltimore, and Battling Nelson, a white man, before the First World War.

He spoke of being inspired by a photograph of the victorious Nelson standing in triumph over his victim's prostrate body. "Quintessential arrogance," Tyson called it, and there was a thrill in his voice. "So inspirational. Beautiful in a graceful way." He had copied the pose, he said, when he knocked out the great Larry Holmes in Atlantic City in 1988, while making his second defence of the undisputed title.

Another reporter mentioned the Sonny Liston character being made by Hollywood later this year. "An interesting cat," Tyson responded. "He wasn't like any guy I thought he was." Liston is, of course, the heavyweight champion with whom the young Tyson has most often been compared, in terms of elemental dark menace. "Sonny Liston is the black negro in every white man's hallway, waiting to do him in, steal him under for all the hurts white men, through their arbitrary order, have been able to inflict on the world," the poet and black militant LeRoi Jones wrote in 1963. "He is the underdeveloped, have-not, politically naive, backward country, the subject people, finally here to collect his pound of flesh."

In the late Eighties, as Tyson bludgeoned his way to the undisputed world title, you could have switched his name for Lister's. He was indeed, to



adopt Jones's meaningful tautology, a black negro - one who refused to conform to any of the optimistic stereotypes.

Liston was a Las Vegas resident, and after falling for the second time to the fists of Muhammad Ali he lived an increasingly marginal existence until he was found dead in 1970, aged 38, in mysterious circumstances and with heroin in his veins. Tyson, who has a house on the outskirts of town, has been known to visit his grave, which is marked by a small plaque set into the lawn of a cemetery just off Paradise Road, under the path of jets carrying thousands of holiday-makers every day into McCarran Airport.

Tyson's Las Vegas mansion is one of six homes bought with the estimated £20m that he has earned from boxing since turning pro in 1985, aged 18. Most of that fortune has gone, and now several of the houses are on the market, including the one in Vegas, in which he spent around £7m. The taxman is on his back, to the tune of £9m, and he in turn is on the back of Don King, who promoted his fights from 1988 until last year, when Tyson severed their relationship. Tyson is suing King for a sum believed to be in the region of \$55m in unpaid earnings, and has begun similar proceedings against "Candy John" Horne and Rory Holloway, the two King-approved homeboys who looked after his

day-to-day management until shortly after the Holyfield debacle.

Now Tyson is listed as managing himself, although he has a new adviser; Shelly Finkel, whom he first met when he was a 15-year-old amateur, and who was once Holyfield's manager. Only two members of his old team - Steve "Crocodile" Fitch, his combat-savvy personal cheerleader, and Stacey McKinley, his cornerman - are still around. He has prepared for this fight at a gym near one of his other homes, in Phoenix, Arizona, where he lives with his wife Monica, a pediatrician, and their children, and where he is registered with the police as a convicted sex offender. Since the problems associated with earning vast sums of money began to erode the fighter's willingness to maintain proper attention to his craft skills, his training has been supervised by Tommy Brooks, a calm, watchful Californian in his mid-forties.

At 32, Tyson has lost little or nothing in pure physical terms. But there comes a time in the lives of most athletes when the mind begins to make its own decisions. Although Tyson is certainly capable of persuading his limbs to produce the kind of elusive movement that was so noticeably lacking in his post-prison fights, does his brain want to be bothered? He is, in any case, a complicated man in psycho-

logical terms, seemingly able to justify to himself the massive internal contradiction between affection and malevolence, between humility and arrogance, and lacking – understandably, it must be said – any belief in the availability of social justice, which explains why he responded to Holyfield's unpunished headbutting by taking the law between his own teeth.

When Tyson was invited to predict the outcome of the fight last week, he proclaimed: "I expect him to die." The shocked reaction was inevitable. Hadn't he learnt anything? There are reliable witnesses, however, who claim that he said this with a smile on his face, in a conscious parody of a much loved moment from a James Bond film. Bond (about to be sawn in half): "Surely you don't expect me to talk." Goldfinger (turning to leave): "No, Mr Bond. I expect you to die!"

Well, he said it again on Monday, in response to the same question, without a smile this time but with a resolute air which did not, I think, mean that he expected to see Botha lying lifeless on the canvas on Saturday night, but that he had noted the response to his first version and had concluded that it was up to us to learn to accept and interpret his choice of language, because he was not about to compromise it.

Since there is no law that Tyson respects, he must be a law unto himself. That view is unlikely to stand him in good stead when he appears before a court next month to answer accusations of having assaulted a fellow road user and thereby violated his parole. If found guilty, he will be lucky to escape a further jail term.

He has a new tattoo on the vast expanse of his upper arm, where a likeness of Che Guevara has joined those of Mao Tse-tung and Arthur Ashe. "An incredible individual," he said on Monday, in response to an inquiry.

"Someone who had so much but sacrificed it all for the benefit of other people." Che and Mao, worshipped by a man raised in the projects and moulded by lawlessness, who now finds himself with six houses, a fleet of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys and a writ in every post? No wonder there are contradictions.

"I see a guy that's still not really sure of himself," Tommy Brooks remarked while Tyson was glad-handing the reporters clustered around the temporary gym, smiling and chatting freely, as if no one had ever written a nasty word about him. "He wants to do the right thing, and he's trying to do the right thing, but it remains to be seen whether he can do it."

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A fumbled chance to bring negligent police to book

THE REVELATION that only one police officer will be charged with neglect of duty for his actions during the Stephen Lawrence murder inquiry shows how difficult it remains to hold the police to account. This Police Complaints Authority announcement shows that internal investigations are not tough enough to control a force that can mishandle witnesses, lose or destroy evidence and ignore promising leads.

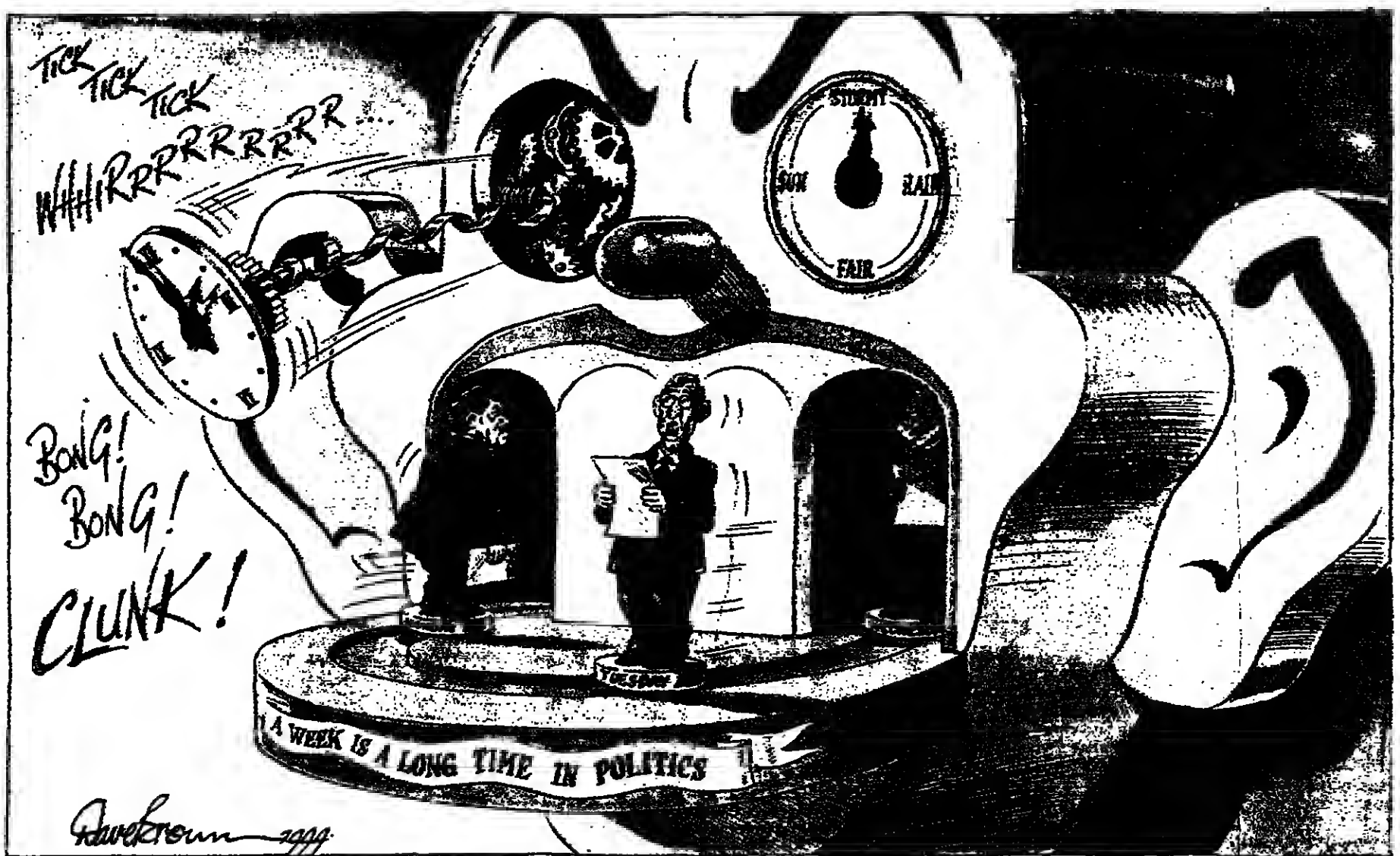
At least the report of the main inquiry into the Lawrence murder, the proceedings of which have shone such light into some dark places, is still pending. It will have to do better than this if it is to be credible. Failings that the Complaints Authority has played down - specifically the failures to give proper first aid at the scene of the crime, and to keep a log book at the scene - ought to have resulted in more than the verbal warnings that will now ensue.

Other officers will escape action entirely. Three have already avoided disciplinary action by the simple but all too common expedient of retiring before they could be punished, which is a pity. The PCA notes that more senior police personnel failed to build bridges with the family; it should have powers to call them to account, too, rather than meekly recommend that training be overhauled.

There is more at stake here than simply one miscarriage of justice - although the details of the Lawrence affair alone are shocking enough. Black Britons feel that they are discriminated against by the police, with "stop and search" policies falling disproportionately on them. Stephen Lawrence, a bright, articulate young man who was snuffed out by the racism of a few white thugs, has become an icon to them; he paid with his life for that same discrimination which plagues so many others in the black community.

A wider public are just as anxious to see this case resolved. They have watched with admiration the courage of Stephen's parents, which has become the strongest weapon in their campaign. That public will feel aggrieved today, and await with concern the report of the main inquiry. In the meantime, they will have to make do with the somewhat grudging public apologies of the Commissioner. That apology will do little to heal the Lawrence family's pain; only justice will do that.

The inquiry into Stephen's death was a mess, as the investigations carried out for the PCA by the Keir Constabulary revealed. The PCA should have the powers and courage to reflect this. It has fumbled an opportunity to demonstrate them; now others must. Dismissal should follow serious censure of officers in the Macpherson inquiry, for anything less would subvert the public's trust in the law itself.



Special hospitals in need of urgent surgery

BRITAIN'S SPECIAL hospitals are in trouble - and they have been for years, dragging Britain's shameful legacy of benighted lunatic asylums with them across the 20th century and, it now appears, to the brink of the 21st. The publication of Sir Peter Fallon's report into the Ashworth Special Hospital on Merseyside shows a dreadful example of this lack of progress.

The revelations contained in the report seem too shocking even to merit the word "disgrace". Many allegations made by a former inmate, which prompted the setting up of the inquiry in 1997 by the then Conservative Health Secretary, Stephen Dorrell, have been confirmed. Management seems to have let the system spin out of control, with drink and drug abuse rife. Pornography seeped into an institution

meant to house those convicted of abusing children - incompetence of an unimaginably high order.

These problems have existed for many years. Sir Louis Blom-Cooper conducted a government inquiry into them as long ago as 1991, reaching the conclusion that such institutions could not be saved. Only radical reform, he concluded, could salvage anything from the wreck. Why has it taken so many years for another report just to record similarly that the staff were unhappy and divided, the facilities were inadequate and the care was dismal?

Ashworth's problems were had enough to come to the attention of any decent monitoring system. The staff's behaviour since the whistle was blown speaks for itself. The last two years have seen the sacking or resignation of two of Ashworth's chief executives and the resignation of a number of less senior staff.

Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, announced his response to the Fallon report yesterday: procedures in the Personality Disorder Unit are to be tight-

ened and a number of management staff dismissed. Vital measures, doubtless, but they do not go nearly far enough. Mr Dobson argues that abolishing special hospitals altogether would change only "bricks and mortar"; but the buildings reflect the ethos of an outdated system.

The mental health charity Mind has long advocated the only sensible resolution: special hospitals - including Rampton and Broadmoor. Ashworth's sister institutions - should be closed down and replaced with a network of smaller, modern units. That would allow a range of different treatments to be adopted, rather than just dumping disturbed individuals - many of whom have committed no crime but are being confined on the basis of their theoretical danger - in virtual prisons.

No one is arguing that security around some of the most dangerous people in Britain should be loosened, but medical and psychiatric care require a higher priority. By refusing to countenance a new approach, the Government demonstrates an unwelcome and dangerous conservatism.

Forget the gunboats - it's time for good old-fashioned diplomacy

A MONTH ago, Yemen was just the mysterious Arabia Felix where they built houses out of rock, chewed gum through the long hot afternoons and produced the odd unsettling, but distant coup. Now, events at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula have interposed themselves rudely on Robin Cook's torrid career. Instead of Britain accusing Middle East nationalists of being party to terrorism, we find ourselves in the uncomfortable position of our own citizens being accused of plotting kidnappings and bombings in Yemen.

The trail of terror and confusion leads back, via the Internet, to the less exotic setting of Finsbury Park, where Abu Hamza al-Masri, an Islamic training camp with due regard for equal opportunities. "Special lectures for sisters regarding women and the role of women in the field of Jihad". His bark may be worse than his bite. We should be suspicious when so much attention is focused on a single loudmouth prepared to deliver soundbites about the need to avenge Anglo-American "state terrorism". Mr Hamza has been preaching his views in the Finsbury Park mosque for some time. I imagine that they are rather well known to MI5 and the counter-terrorism squad.

Free speech is always the democratic principle we are keenest to throw away when it is others who are to be silenced, not us. It might not be very nice of Mr Hamza to carry in his Internet site passages of Osama bin Laden's philosophy such as: "The walls of oppression cannot be demolished except in a hail of bullets," but

one could not ban it without coming down on every other revolutionary group which believes in violent final conflict to resolve the class struggle, in the name of animal rights or to end repressive male hegemony. That has never proved an effective approach to stifling dissent.

Mr Hamza is not really the problem. More important is what his son (sought by the Yemeni authorities) and step-son (under arrest there) were doing there and how justified the Sana'a government is in its accusations against them. It would be a more rash person than I who would claim to know whether those detained are being fitted up by the Yemeni government or whether they are guilty of plotting the violence of which they are accused. The Foreign Office's dilemma is that it is exerting itself for people who may turn out to have been terrorists, many of whose supporters are no enthusiasts for Western freedoms.

As things stand, the accused are being held without charge and are being denied access to their lawyer, so Britain is duty-bound to help. I see no justification for the charge that Mr Cook has bungled things by delay, beyond a general desire to kick a politician when he is down. The pressure at such times is always to proceed with a bang and a rush - over to take things steadily.

But some situations defy haste. This one, which combines internal tribal feuds, the undigested aftermath of the unification of Yemen, the ill-feeling generated by Britain's participation in the Iraq bombing raids and the sensitivity in Sana'a about the



ANNE MCELVOY
We must live with the consequences of giving fundamentalism a foothold in strategically vital Yemen

bungled hostage-release, demands a lot of looking before the leap.

Some 10 years ago I spent a summer visiting diplomatic friends in Yemen, the most beautiful country I have ever seen. I have never been so hot as I was at the vast Marib dam, or as exhilarated by the terraced mountain slopes, negotiated by heavily laden donkeys far more speedily than by our four-wheel vehicles.

Of fundamentalism, the only hint was being stoned by a crowd of women as a "Nazarene", having been foolish enough to stray into a religious area. The kidnapping of Westerners was an occasional inconvenience, politely conducted in order to extort roads and clean water from the government, swiftly concluded.

That was before the unification of Yemen. The Cold War imposed its bru-

tal simplicities here as it had in other troubled parts of the globe. The north was pro-Western, the south the heart of the Soviet Union's sphere of influence in the Middle East, where the Russians and East Germans sought - hopelessly - to centralise control in a tribal land by seeking to restrict the days on which goat could be chewed.

After the Berlin Wall fell, the Sana'a government re-imported fundamentalists from Saudi Arabia in order to chase out the Marxists in the south. Unification was in vogue everywhere. The West supported integration, believing that it would increase stability in the region. But we were cavalier about the terms on which it happened.

Whether Western governments would have approved of Mr Hamza planting explosives on behalf of the mujahedin also is a matter of dates. Osama bin Laden was a useful tool against Western enemies at the time. The end of the Cold War meant a realignment of friends and enemies whose less ethical implications were forgotten in the general relief and triumphalism nicely parodied (except he meant it) in PJ O'Rourke's book: "We kicked Commie ass."

The trouble is, we live now with the consequences of how we kicked Commie ass in Afghanistan - a country bleeding itself to death - and helped give fundamentalism a foothold in the strategically vital country of Yemen. Using the sword of Islam against the hammer and sickle was a high-risk policy and we pay the price today.

I have had my doubts about Mr Cook as Foreign Secretary. Mr Blair's lavish praise of his "superb" perfor-

mance was rank hyperbole. But on Yemen, he has the opportunity to rehabilitate himself by showing that he can hold his nerve in a situation which can not be resolved by the more dramatic means of mercenaries or gun boats. This one needs good, old-fashioned diplomacy.

At the mention of the words "British nationals", however rampant irrationalism sets in. Already those who wish to raise the temperature of an already tragic situation - with three Britons dead - are recommending Libyan embassy tactics. Apart from the practical objection that the prisoners are being held, inconveniently in Aden and not in St James' Square, an abhorrent confrontation with the Yemeni authorities would simply play into the hands of Islamicists seeking to strengthen their grip on power.

Yesterday, Michael Howard compared the alleged tardiness of the Government in dealing with the prisoners in Yemen, with the stream of prisoner releases in Ulster. As the Conservatives support the Good Friday agreement, this was off-message even by their own standards.

More seriously, his attack on Mr Cook risked fuelling aggression among some of the prisoners' supporters towards the British government. It was a shameful performance, the worse for coming from an intelligent and experienced former minister who knows that there are times when the national interest demands that the Opposition behaves loyally in order not to make a dangerous situation worse. This is one of them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"The whole thing was a mess from top to bottom."
Frank Dobson,
Health Secretary, on Ashworth Mental Hospital

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Under a government which imprisons any unjustly, the true place for a just man is also a prison."
Henry David Thoreau,
American writer

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JACQUES SANTER complains: "We are the victim of our own transparency." That is not true. The European Commission president becomes a victim, then it is because he is not in control of his political business. Brussels now needs to be controlled. The 20 commissioners do not constitute a government, but they have long been more than an administration. What is lacking is a clear distribution of power; a Constitution for Europe. This

will not be attained in the short term. The mess caused by the commissioners does not warrant the resignation of all of them, but the most incompetent commissioners must go. Die Welt, Germany

EDITH CRESSON (France's commissioner) is accused of hiring a personal friend as an adviser, and Manuel Marin (Spain's commissioner) is criticised for a lack of control over community funds that he man-

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

European comment on the allegations of corruption in the EU Commission

agents. These do not seem sufficient motives to unleash a crisis of such proportions. The real reasons are different - the negotiation of the community budget has poisoned

things. Germans and Dutch, instigators of the confrontation, are taking advantage of some minor irregularities to justify a drastic cut in European social funds, to which Santer is an ob-

stacle. The Commission will be damaged by a dispute inopportune for the EU and incomprehensible to the public. El Mundo, Spain

THE GOVERNMENT needs a Commission that can support its Agenda 2000 plans with courage and competence. The government must support Santer and his team. But it must also show consideration for the European Parliament and their anger with Brussels, and

it also has to think ahead to the European elections in June. Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Germany

DELEGATES FIND themselves in a delicate situation, torn between the terror of censure and the unease of coming across as trying to keep a lid on a Commission that is not even going to try to make amends: the scandals of which are, even now, still on everyone's lips. Le Soir, Belgium

PANDORA

NOW THAT Lord Falconer has taken control of the Millennium Dome, the project's environmentalist critics find themselves facing a familiar – and formidable – opponent. Once described as a "left wing Tory" by a Labour MP, Falconer was a high-flying lawyer, said to earn £500,000 a year, who first met Tony Blair when they were schoolboys in Edinburgh and who later, shared a Wandsworth house with the future Prime Minister. Greenpeace, who are vociferous critics of the Dome's HFC-cooled air-conditioning system, remember Charles Falconer from his days when he advised the arch-foe British Nuclear Fuels. Unfortunately, when Pandora rang Lord Melchett, the head of Greenpeace, yesterday to solicit his reaction to Falconer's new Dome responsibilities, the noble environmentalist was out of the office nursing an injured knee. Hopefully, he will mend soon and return to share his views on Falconer.

TWO OF the Internet's greatest claims to fame are about to combine to create yet another unprecedented cyber-event. The Net's infinite supply of pornography and its most famous journalistic scoop (the Web gossip columnist Matt Drudge's breaking of the Monica Lewinsky story) will soon join up when something called Primal Entertainment launches a "live re-enactment of the Starr Report" featuring "performers depicting the intimate encounters between the President and Monica Lewinsky". It won't be free, however, but only available to adults who "purchase tickets with a major credit card". The porn star Ron Jeremy has been engaged both to direct and star as Bill Clinton in this most inappropriate of all broadcasts, set for 25 January. Well, it had to happen, didn't it?

AN ARTICLE appeared in the Daily Mail yesterday by "leading left-wing commentator" Melanie Phillips. This billing must have raised eyebrows all over the country, for Phillips has not exactly established herself as a bright star in this country's leftist firmament. In 1997, for example, she gave a lecture to the Centre for Policy Studies in which she attacked modern liberalism for its emphasis on personal freedom and individual rights, warning New Labour "to rein back individualism through restoration of true liberal constraints".

Left wing, yes, but according to a late-18th-century definition. As for Melanie's view on the current hospital crisis, yesterday's article proclaims: "the modern nurse often considers it beneath her to make sure that an elderly patient who can barely move is comfortable on her pillows, or that her hair is washed." This haughty indictment of an entire beleaguered profession is radical all right, but leftist?

READERS KEEN to purchase a new brand of scent provocatively called "Viagra" had better get surfing as soon as possible. The dubious perfume is for sale only over the Internet, but the pharmaceutical giant Pfizer, manufacturer of the male rejuvenation miracle drug, is bringing a suit against a firm called Park Plaza Fragrances which, presumably, is a specialist in the techniques of the hard sell.

SOME FIERCE charges against the European Commissioner Edith Cresson are being lodged by an Irish MEP Nuala Ahern of the Leinster Green Party, in connection with the ongoing Brussels funding controversy. But none so ferocious as her charge, in a press release obtained by Pandora, that Mme Cresson receives "private astrology forecasts" from a long-time friend, René Berthelot, a dentist, who has been appointed to co-ordinate the EU's Aids research efforts. Shades of Nancy Reagan, who used to consult her astrologer before advising her husband Ronnie on his schedule! Pandora looks forward to the promulgation of an effective cross-border horoscope-monitoring authority.

"IT WAS genuinely hilarious," the unnamed source told yesterday's New York Post about a reported sighting of the most personal asset of Ewan McGregor (pictured) at the Versace menswear show in Milan. "The people who got the best view were laughing the hardest." Apparently those people were sitting directly across the catwalk from McGregor's first-row seat when he unzipped and flashed his light sabre for a brief instant. The Transpottin' star is soon to debut as Ohi-Wan Kenobi in George Lucas's long-awaited prequel to Star Wars. "People were chattering, but this kind of shits you up. It's the kind of thing you're not expecting," said the source. Quite.



For sale: one human guinea pig



SUE ARNOLD

Three husbands, five children and a string of disastrous jobs have left my friend Lulu skint

make a fast buck. Just before Christmas she tried to sell me a burglar alarm so small but yet so sensitive, she claimed, that I could keep it in the fridge. If she sold 10 of them by Christmas she'd get £200 commission. I said I had enough junk in my fridge already without adding a burglar alarm to the confusion, and to her credit she didn't harass me.

Last summer she told me excitedly that she was going to a clinic near Bournemouth to be a human guinea-pig for a new drug they had just invented to cure Alzheimer's, for which she would be paid £800. Isn't it dangerous, I asked. What will they do to you? Lulu said it wasn't a bit dangerous; her friend Gerald had put her up to it. He had already done it. This did not bode well.

Gerald is an old friend of Lulu's (I think they met at the launderette in Oropesa del Mar) who is also permanently broke. He's 50ish, a retired wing commander invariably dressed in a white cashmere scarf with a flower in his buttonhole. You'd never guess that he lives in a squat near Lewisham.

Lulu said she had passed the preliminary test; now, she said, all she had to do was stay at the clinic, take a few pills, have a few brain scans, and Bob's your uncle – 800 quid. I telephoned her two weeks later. She sounded fine. "Tell me all about it. What did they do? Do you feel sick?" I wanted to know. "Never felt better in my life," she said, but she honestly didn't remember much about it. Two of the other guinea-

pigs, a married couple, had been sent home half-way through the course and were furious because they had been relying on the money to pay for their new fitted kitchen.

This time round it was much more lucrative. She was getting £3,000 to take a series of pills for a month for something called stress incontinence. I said I'd rather not hear about it, but if they were paying her £3,000, the pills must surely have dangerous side-effects. At the very least she would probably end up with stress incontinence, which would seriously restrict her social life. Lulu said that for £3,000 she was prepared to take the risk, and anyway they didn't seem to have done Gerald any harm.

Three thousand pounds does seem a lot of money for taking a few pills. I know that some of my daughter's student friends (male) used to supplement their grants by regular visits to the sperm bank. They were paid £30 a shot. It was all very discreet. In the waiting-room they were not called by their names but by numbers – B52, P45, that sort of thing. And when their numbers were called they were given not just

an empty test tube but a selection of magazines (quality) and magazines (top-shelf) to read while they were about it.

Now, following the recent House of Lords recommendation to decriminalise marijuana for medical purposes, everyone's queuing up to be pot guinea-pigs.

I know a lot of people who would do it for nothing. Apart from selling a pint of blood in Thessaloniki for £10 when I rang out of money back-packing in Greece donkey's years ago, I've never sold my body for science. More fool me.

When mad cow disease was first diagnosed three years ago a splendid old lady of 92 I know up in the Highlands wrote to a well known teaching hospital in London offering herself as a human guinea-pig for BSE research. "I've lived quite long enough," she wrote. "I give you carte blanche to inject my brain with anything you like, and if I do foam at the mouth at least I shall have done something to improve the human race."

They wrote back politely declining her offer. She sounded pretty batty already, they said.

Let's rule out this daft talk of merger with the Liberals



KEN LIVINGSTONE

The trouble with this strategy is that it is founded on a complete ignorance of British history

HOW TYPICAL that Labour should feel that the best way of resolving our current difficulties is a "relaunch". Rational people, faced with a series of disasters on the scale that Labour has suffered in recent weeks, would be more likely to consider it worthwhile to examine why these problems have occurred, before they decide how to respond to them. Labour Party members and MPs have been lectured for years about the need for restraint and self-discipline for fear that public policy rows may damage our standing in the polls, yet almost all the real damage inflicted on Labour has come from the very top of the party.

The party machine launched a major exercise to ensure that the Labour leadership did not lose a single vote at last year's party conference, largely by the expedient of allowing only votes the leadership could win. But we have to ask ourselves what have been more damaging for the Labour Party: honest debates at the conference on issues such as taxation, the NHS and Iraq, or problems raised by Harriet Harman's choice of school for her children, the Bernie Ecclestone affair, Derek Draper's cash for access scandal, and Nothing Hill Gate.

Some of our problems stem from the fact that Tony Blair has allowed the impression to grow that he may be prepared to stand down as Prime Minister during his second term. I have always dismissed this idea as rubbish. Why on earth should a successful prime minister stand down from the most exciting and challenging post in British politics when he is barely 50 years old? I wouldn't be surprised if Tony Blair ends up heating Clem Attlee's record of 20 years as Labour leader, at the age of 61. I may even be able to look down at him delivering a graveside eulogy at my own funeral!

It's about time Tony Blair knocked all this nonsense on the head by letting it be known that he has no plans for early retirement, and ministers should concentrate all their energies on the task of re-electing this government. Tony Blair should also start to loosen up the present obsessive opposition of the party machine to frank and honest debates about issues of policy. In this case the place to start is at the top. Instead of the present 30-minute Cabinet encounter-group-style feel-good experience, whereby ministers rubber-stamp what Labour's Big Three have already agreed, we should revert to full discussion across the whole range of policy. Until some ghastly little creature in the Millbank Tendency comes up with constitutional proposals for presidential government, our constitution is still based on the concept of Cabinet government, with the Prime Minister as first among equals.

But far and away the most important issue that Tony Blair needs to resolve is the question of our re-

lationship with the Liberal Democrats and the trade unions. More than anybody else, Peter Mandelson is the figure identified with "The Project", a strategy aimed at severing Labour's links with the trade unions and undertaking a full merger with Paddy Ashdown's Liberal Democrats. The fullest expression of this strategy appeared in Philip Gould's recent book, *The Unfinished Revolution*: "the better course would be for Labourism and Liberalism to unite. But this will not be easy. It will require the Labour Party to be generous, to reach out to a smaller party when in a position of great strength."

It would be easy to dismiss Philip Gould's writings. He has never been elected to any public office or even sought election to Labour's NEC, but he remains one of the half a dozen most important figures around Tony Blair. His analysis of polling figures and his conduct of Labour's focus groups have been the basis for Labour's electoral strategy. His memos have rained down on Tony Blair from the very beginning of Tony's campaign to gain the Labour leadership, and even a cursory reading of his book reveals that they have almost always formed the basis of Tony Blair's electoral strategy.

Tony's speech to the 1997 party conference seemed to endorse Gould's strategy: "division among radicals almost 100 years ago resulted in a 20th century dominated by conservatives".

The trouble with Gould's strategy is that it is founded on a complete ignorance of British history. It was not the rise of the Labour Party that led to the downfall of the Liberals, because the Liberals had been in electoral decline for half a century before the Labour Party was established in 1900. The reasons for this are clear. The Liberals were the party of classical *laissez-faire* cap-



Paddy Ashdown with Tony Blair and Robin Cook at a consultative committee meeting

italism – as they could afford to be in an era when Britain dominated the world economy. The rise of the American and German economies meant that it was essential for British capital to protect itself, turning to the Conservatives who had a strongly protectionist slant, expressed in the concept of imperial preference for British firms within the empire.

The fate of the Liberals was sealed in the 1886 split, when Liberal Unionists crossed the floor of the House in opposition to Irish Home Rule and fused with the Tories, whose vote then rose inexorably to a peak of 55 per cent in the 1931 general election. Like most parties in decline, the Liberals exacerbated the process by personality conflicts and internal leadership struggles.

The creation of the Labour Party was not some unfortunate sectarian error. It was inevitable that a new party would rise to fill the void left by the Liberals and inevitably that party would define itself in terms of its relationship to the Tories. If the

Tories were to represent capital, then as night follows day the new party would be based on the trade unions, particularly as this coincided with the enfranchisement of growing numbers of working-class people. Labour's success was that it gradually came to represent both working-class and middle-class interests, and created a welfare state that benefited both.

Even if Labour were now to fuse with the Liberal Democrats, it would not produce the result that Gould wants. Millions of Liberal Democrat voters would be likely to switch to the Tories rather than vote Lab-Lib, thus making it more rather than less likely that the Tories could return to power. By contrast, if the Liberal Democrats remain a separate political party, then in Labour's bad years they could find themselves holding the balance of power.

Tony Blair could ease a lot of the suspicion amongst Labour's rank and file by unequivocally ruling out any merger with the Liberal Democrats.

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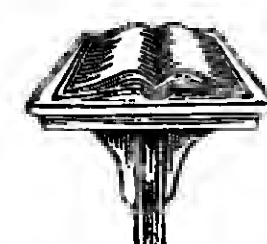
Islam is a religion of tolerance

AS WE enter the new millennium, we need to think of the world that is forming around us, a world that juxtaposes different cultures, religions and traditions. We need to appreciate that in this world unexpected allies and opponents will be lining up. It is essential to keep before us the one point that links us and provides the greatest bridge between the Jewish and Islamic civilisations: belief. We need to be aware of this link and move towards each other – not for negative reasons such as the need to ally ourselves against hatred of Islam or hatred against Jews, but because of the common source that nourishes us, the idea of the one God and the examples of the great Prophets.

Whatever its critics say, Islam is above all a religion of compassion and tolerance. As a Muslim, I am proud of this great legacy and heritage of Islam, and it is this sense of pride that prepares me for the troubled times ahead, as the planet itself, beset by ecological, economic and demographic problems, seems on the point of exhaustion. In sharp contrast is the anti-

Semitism prevalent in Europe. Christians widely believed that Jews were Christ-killers and so had to be punished. Christian crusaders against the Muslims often began their European journeys by slaughtering Jews. European history is drenched in Jewish blood. Hitler's *Gleichschaltung* – the war against Jews as a people – was the culmination of a millennium of anti-Semitism. It has rightly come to be seen as one of the darkest stains on the human conscience.

Anti-Semitism is far from dead in Europe today. As a Muslim I know that whenever there is evidence of Islamophobia, or hatred against Islam and Muslims, the signs of anti-Semitism are not far behind. Perhaps it is this generalised anti-Semitism that has prompted Jewish intellectuals to yearn for the ordinary life, to be left alone to get on with their lives. That is what traditional Jews hoped to find in Israel. But there was the reality of having to deal with another ancient people already living there, the Palestinians. Forced expulsion from their homes, and countless other humiliations, are at the core of the pre-



PODIUM

AKBAR AHMED
From a lecture given by the fellow of Salwyn College, Oxford, at London's Liberal Jewish Synagogue

fringements of human rights while completely ignoring the extraordinary achievements of Muslim civilisation, such as the architectural wonders of the Taj Mahal and the mosque in Córdoba, and the many varied contributions to the arts, science and engineering.

The general hatred against Muslims brings consequences. There is a cause and effect. We have seen this in the Balkans only recently. The death and rape camps in the Balkans and the outside world's general indifference to them served as a reminder that Islamophobia is very much alive and with us. I want to put on record that in the anguish and anger felt by Muslims over the Balkan horrors, perhaps the most notable sympathisers were the Jews. It was obvious that the sufferings in the Balkans echoed their own terrible sufferings half a century before.

Muslims must, therefore, stop seeing everything negative that happens in the Muslim world in terms of a Jewish conspiracy. It is patently not. By the same token, Muslims cannot be anti-Semites. The early Muslims – the Arabs – were themselves Semites.

Anti-Zionism is a separate matter. Having been founded in modern Europe, Zionism is seen as a foreign import to the Middle East. Its success in creating Israel complicates matters for Muslims. Thus the loss of Palestinian lands are seen with a sense of injustice and anger amongst Muslims.

It would be foolish to think there can be a quick end to the confrontation that exists between religions and nations today, unless Muslims feel that some genuine sense of tolerance and compassion is shown towards the Palestinian people; unless Muslim rights to one of their holiest cities, Jerusalem, are acknowledged; and unless the sense of hostility expressed in the media is checked.

Muslims, Jews and Christians must find a way of living peacefully together. If we cannot think in terms of our common noble religions as representing the ideal, then let us think in terms of our common cultural heritage. Let us try to live up to the best they can achieve, and look away from the baseness and violence that is sometimes expressed as part of the response.

Welcome to a two-tier society

IT IS not often that a single advertising campaign contains the germ of an entire social critique, but Beecham has managed it with its winter push for Lemsip Max. The campaign takes advantage of the recent Sydney flu epidemic with a flagship television advertisement in which a middle-aged male executive bursts in on a secretary and asks whether her boss has everything in place for that important meeting on Thursday. She replies that her chap has the flu and won't be back until Monday. He slaps some Lemsip Max on the desk and declares in steely tones that he will be seeing the hapless absentee bright and early on Thursday morning. The poster campaign puts it more straightforwardly: "Stop snivelling and get back to work!"

It may not seem like much, but it's all there. First, the primacy of the workplace. All must be sacrificed so that you can be at your desk, for there is no more important place to be. Second, the continuing distrust between workers and management. Rising absenteeism must point only to a malingering workforce, not to an over-stressed one. Third, the contempt private business has for the public services. No one should feel ashamed that a deadly epidemic that has ravaged a weakened National Health Service has become a petty marketing opportunity rather than a blueprint for far-reaching social change.

But who can blame Beecham for paying no attention to the lessons the NHS has to offer us about working practices in Britain today? Few people are. Certainly the Government isn't. More money may be coming the way of the NHS, but that isn't all that's needed. Far more radical strategies are demanded here and elsewhere, but instead we are offered impotent tamperings with the status quo.

Take the Government announcement yesterday that it is setting up a register of nannies in an attempt to reassure working parents that their children are in safe hands. Ministers were previously considering a register of individual nannies, but the idea was vetoed by Downing Street as being too bureaucratic (New Labour code for "expensive") and a restriction of parental choice (New Labour code for "untenable in the socially divided country that we are pleased to govern").

This legislation wouldn't have helped the Eappen family, who lost eight-month-old Matthew, or the Stacey family, who lost five-month-old Joseph, even though it is ostensibly in response to these high-profile tragedies. So whom is it going to help? The nurses who are staying at home to bring up their children not only because they can't afford the kind of childcare that nannying agencies offer, but also because NHS rosters are too inflexible for them to combine work and family? Certainly not.

These new rules will make childcare found through formal channels still more expensive, and top-flight nannies will remain the luxury they were at the turn of the century. And since nurses are already at the bottom of the pay heap, as there apparently isn't the money in the public coffers to fund them, feminism's airy ideas that the next move forward for women is decent state childcare are not just insulting to them, but irrelevant to everyone.

Who looks after the children while women are out seeking equality in the workplace? Poorer women, that's who. And money isn't just a problem when it comes to finding a nanny. Perhaps an au pair is a cheaper alternative, but only if there is



DEBORAH ORR

Can't afford agency rates for nannies? Haven't got a spare room? No car? There's only one career open to you: Mum

room in your ever-more-expensive privately owned bouse for a live-in help. A shared childminder is a good idea, too, but make sure you keep the car running to ferry them back and forth. Can't afford agency rates for nannies? Haven't got a spare room? Don't have a car? In that case, only one career is open to you. Mum. Better look after your child and someone else's too.

It's an odd kind of feminism that, almost by definition, requires a two-tier system within female society for it to move forward. Where's the equality in a society where some women have to earn a great deal so that they can afford to pay other women to look after their children? How long do we have to persist with this two-jobs-for-the-price-of-one model, ignoring its laughable contradictions and awful social cost?

There is a real alternative, one that the plight of the nurses is screaming at us to consider. It's not surprising that it is within nursing that the difficulties facing working women should be thrown into the starkest relief. Nursing, of course, was historically a female profession, and nurses have been expected to carry on working largely under conditions designed for caring young women who have not yet married and, therefore, live at home with no financial commitments. (Even the career-structure changes that have been made are benefiting male nurses most. They have been finding it much easier to climb the modest ladder that is now in place for them.)

Another thing that hasn't changed for nurses is that when they complain they're accused of caring not for their vocation but for career advancement, trouble-making, lefty politicking. Just like the good old days, when a woman who didn't want to give up her career for home and children had something wrong with her.

We cannot return to that nightmare. But what we can do is really start concentrating on the idea that equality, just like charity, begins at home. Let's all - men and women - stop being so macho about work and start seriously considering the prospect of working not a five-day, 40-hour week, but four days a week, or three. Let's all start spending more time with our families, while we still have them. It'll mean a smaller salary, but it'll mean smaller childcare bills, too. It'll also mean, among advantages too numerous to mention, less stress, less absenteeism, less tension between women and men, less unemployment, better parenting and more of that leisure we were once promised in the bright and shiny future that has become our dark and dangerous present.

So what is stopping us? At present Britain has longer working hours than



The prospect of being able to afford a nanny is as remote for most mothers as it was at the turn of the century *Keystone*

any other country in Europe, and the most recent British Social Attitudes survey found that 25 per cent of the workforce would be happy to work shorter hours for less pay. Research carried out last year by the London School of Economics suggested that even a misery cut in working hours - to 35 hours a week - would decrease unemployment by a million. Meanwhile stress-related illnesses are out of control, and parents have children whom they

hardly ever see (no wonder depression is on the increase among kids). We are work-obsessed while, at the same time, we complain about the dumbing-down of our culture. Who has time to spare to lavish on culture, except cultural workers?

What's stopping us, naturally are the bobs who head up industry. The CBI claims that a shorter working week would reduce profits. But is that necessarily correct? The sectors of the economy that are expanding

include leisure, tourism, music, fashion and the service industries. Wouldn't more people working fewer hours mean more customers for these industries and, therefore, further expansion? And wouldn't the redistribution of work rather than wealth mean more people paying lower taxes and a reduction of the burden on the welfare state? Wouldn't we, quite simply, be happier? Or should I just stop snivelling and get back to work?

RIGHT OF REPLY

DAVID MELLOR



The chairman of the Football Task Force replies to criticism of its blueprint to encourage football

FOOTBALL CLUBS stand accused by the Office of Fair Trading of acting as a cartel in selling TV rights to Sky and the BBC. *The Independent* has made up its mind. "Football will win," it pronounced, "if we defeat this cartel."

There are good reasons why sports leagues sell rights collectively - unlike other companies they depend on each other for survival, otherwise they would have nobody to play against and there would be no one to watch.

Leagues negotiate TV deals on a collective basis so that their money can be shared between members, helping to ensure healthy competition. Money from these deals can also be reinvested throughout the sport.

Too much money is concentrated at the top of the game, but it is wrong to argue that the way to address this is to break up collective negotiations. Even if individual deals do succeed in bringing more income into football, it will be concentrated in the hands of an even smaller number of clubs than at present.

There may be a way out of all this that would satisfy both sides. The court can allow a restrictive agreement if it can be shown to bring "significant and substantial" benefits to the public. Could not a deal be struck whereby the Premier League would agree to sell rights to television matches to a wider range of broadcasters? In addition, it could commit to a level of investment in grassroots facilities that the OFT would consider acceptable.

Negotiations for the broadcasting of matches should continue to be done centrally through the Premier League, and the league should continue to reinvest the money. If the OFT digs in its heels and refuses to concede any ground, I can see no other alternative than the break-up of English football.

We're not so easily shocked

AN AEROBICS teacher from New York, with a row of white teeth so perfect they stand as monuments to American dentistry, wants to educate us about our bodies. Her natural genre would be the self-help book or exercise video. But Emily Jenkins, who is nearing 30, has a different mission. In *Tongue First*, named after her first French kiss, Jenkins is clearly trying to imitate the classic feminist texts that have come before her. Not Lotte Berk and Jane Fonda, but Naomi Wolf and Elizabeth Wurtzel are her role models.

In a series of anecdotes taken almost entirely from her own unremarkable history, Jenkins wants to focus on a contradiction, "how the body is both a prison and a vehicle for adventure". She promises us journeys into realms we have never trespassed into before, "wildest adventures". She promises to take us with her as she experiences strip shows, having her head shaved ("chosen baldness"), being "Rolled", appearing nude in public and, of course, "fucking as much as possible".

I confess to first flicking excitedly through this



WEDNESDAY BOOK

TONGUE FIRST: ADVENTURES IN PHYSICAL CULTURE
BY EMILY JENKINS. VIRAGO, £9.99

slim volume in search of the dirty bits. No luck. The naughtiest thing I could find was a reference to indigestion in relation to underwear. A friend of the author's, like the author herself, dismisses things (to my mind the most sensuous item of clothing ever invented) on the grounds that "I feel like my farts can't get out. Something's blocking them!"

And the physical adventures I was so looking forward to all turn out to be things that you pay for, just like aerobic classes. The "wildest adventures" - colonic irrigation, flotation tanks, acupuncture and "Rolled" (in which your body is "realigned" by painful massage) - are all

expensive fads, most of which originate in America. The one thing that links them is not physicality, but cost.

For all her Wurtzel-like lunges into the wilder shores of physical experience, Jenkins can't help but descend into unadulterated consumerism. She gives us far too much detail about the shades of lipstick she likes to wear, conveniently telling us their names in case we want to run to the cosmetic counter and order some for ourselves. She spends several pages agonising over what she is going to wear to a New York publishing party - should it be pale yellow, or a little black number?

She excuses such unremitting self-indulgence with odd splashes of cool sociology. "Make-up is a tool by which we shame, flatter, and mould our inner landscapes along with our exteriors," she says, after recommending Desire lipstick in "its little phallic tube".

The only really sexy things are those you can buy. There's nothing better at stimulating dirty thoughts than the dollar.

The purpose of this book is not to highlight any contradiction. Not that I would like it any better if it were, as "contradiction" must be the most overused word in any budding author's proposal. The shameless purpose of this book is to titillate and shock. But it feebly fails to do so. The location in which the author took off all her clothes in front of strangers was not Fifth Avenue, but on a nudist beach, where it would have been far more daring to have remained fully clothed. To talk about sex, she tours the shelves of her local bookshop, using this as a limp excuse to quote liberally and paraphrase such daring titles as *The Hite Report* and *The Joy of Sex*. Her most erotic outing is to see the Chippendales. No adventurer could be more timid.

Tongue First is classic writing of a sort, but perhaps not the sort the author intends. It has none of the acute analysis or academic authority of her feminist forerunners. Instead, it is a



The adventurous author displays her tattoo

classic of unfocused adolescent ramblings. Only those who have recently voyaged out of puberty link farts and sex - as Jenkins does. And, just like an adolescent, the only subject that really interests the author is herself.

This book may have a sexy title, but it is shockingly anodyne. Despite all attempts to appear otherwise (a tattoo, one session of drug-taking, "chosen baldness"), Emily Jenkins emerges from this coy book as a cross-legged young woman with few insights. However her physical exterior is packaged, inside she is just the girl next door. *DEA BIRKETT*

WEDNESDAY POEM

FROM 'THE WASTING GAME'
BY PHILIP GROSS

I could hate	In woodcuts from another age
those frail maids fading beautifully	of plagues, to his knuckleboned touch,
in books, wax lilies, pale-succulent	half smiling; the consumptive turns
	on her lace-bordered pillow
stalks that might snap	weakly and away
at a touch. The bird-dropping of blood	from any warmth of flesh
In a lace-bordered handkerchief	as if stung; the anorexic turns
like the monstrosity on the nuptial sheet.	her face towards these stories, stories
A consummation most devoutly wished	which, because I love the girl,
by death. The maiden turns,	I hate.

Philip Gross's 'The Wasting Game' (Bloodaxe, £6.95) was shortlisted for the 1998 Whitbread Poetry Award

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R. Gerallt Jones

ONE OF the most prolific Welsh authors of the post-war period, R. Gerallt Jones excelled both as poet and prose-writer, and more unusually, in both Welsh, his first language, and English, the language of his early schooling. He also took a passionate interest in the affairs of the Third World, especially those of the Indian subcontinent, and of Jamaica, where he spent two years as the first Principal of Mandeville Teachers' College.

He was born, a poor Anglican vicar's son, at Nefyn on the Llyn in north-west Wales, the rugged peninsula that points towards Ireland. At the age of 10, still a monoglot Welsh-speaker, he was sent by his Anglophile, High Church, High Tory father as a boarder to a school near Shrewsbury and thence to Denstone College, a minor public school for boys, in Staffordshire.

Although his schooldays were happy - his exceptional intelligence and prowess at cricket ensured that he was not ragged on account of his very un-English background - the experience made him think of Wales, and the wild scenery of Llyn in particular, as an ideal country. "Wales for me," he wrote, "was a beach, a home, a wonderful world, hidden, separate from the world of school, a proud possession of my own, a secret room that my English friends knew nothing about."

It was to the sea-girt peninsula that he was to return so often in his writing, sometimes to the rather daunting figure of his father who, of illegitimate birth and Methodist upbringing, had decided that his only child would not be tainted by what he considered to be the hypocrisy of the Welsh Nonconformist chapel.

At the University College of North Wales, Bangor, where he first encountered the harsher realities of Welsh life, R. Gerallt Jones took a degree in English and went on to write an MA thesis on the work of Robert Graves. Also at Bangor, in association with Bedwyr Lewis Jones, a lifelong friend and co-religionist who later became Professor of Welsh at the College, he launched and edited the magazine *Yr Arloeswr* ("The Pioneer"). Brief though its lifespan was - it ran for only eight numbers between 1957 and 1960 - the magazine published the work of Gwyn Thomas and Bobi Jones, who were to join him in a triumvirate of poets now acknowledged as the most important of their generation.

This interest in literary journalism remained with him for the rest of his life: he was a regular contributor to Welsh periodicals and from 1987 to 1992, again with Bedwyr Lewis Jones, he edited the Welsh Academy's influential magazine *Tulieis*.

The versatility of R. Gerallt Jones as a writer was quite remarkable. He published five volumes of verse in Welsh: *Ynys y Ddraig* ("Among the Nettles", 1960), *Cwlwm* ("Knot", 1962), *Cysgodion* ("Shadows", 1972), *Dyfod Gerdodur y Moes* ("The Relentless Walkers of the

Field", 1981) and *Cerddi 1955-89* ("Poems 1955-89", 1989); and one in English, *Jamaican Landscape* (1969), the fruit of his two years in the Caribbean. A deeply meditative poet, he was able to give the numinous concrete form by the use of striking imagery and the rich idiom of his native district. His command of English, together with his belief that Welsh poetry deserved and needed a wider audience, led him to translate a good deal of it, notably in the substantial anthology *Poetry of Wales 1930-70* (1974).

In his prose writing, he tackled contemporary social problems with a special sympathy for the marginalised and dispossessed. His first novel, *Y Fod Fawr* ("The Great Hill", 1960), is about a Welshman who campaigns for the rights of black people in South Africa; its sequel, *Nadolig Gwyn* ("A White Christmas", 1962), set in Bangor, is more concerned with politics and social justice at home. In *Triptych* (1977), one of two novels with which he won the Prose Medal at the National Eisteddfod, he dealt with the spiritual disintegration of 20th-century culture as a background to the slow death from cancer of a physical education teacher, while the other, *Cnfflogion* (1979), described a commune in Llyn after an unnamed catastrophe in a dark, dystopian future. His novel *Gwynllyf y Corrynt* ("Fanning the Whirlwind", 1978) is about terrorism in Ireland.

But perhaps his most celebrated book is *Gwneud y Gwion* ("The Loss of Innocence", 1966), a collection of seven short stories exploring the innocence of childhood and the burgeoning of conscience in a boy growing up in Llyn during the Second World War. In 1982 the stories were adapted for television by their author as *Ym Jones*, one of the most enchanting films made since the advent of S4C, the Welsh-language television channel, and filmed by the American Stephen Bayly. One episode, "The Evacuees", was the first Welsh-language production to be screened at the London Film Festival.

In his literary criticism R. Gerallt Jones displayed a fundamentally liberal outlook, examining Wales and its culture in a wider context which took in the problems of the Third World, about which he made several television programmes. He published three collections of essays on literary subjects: *Yn Frawd i'r Eos Druan* ("Brother to the Poor Nightingale", 1961), *Ansawdd y Seiliu* ("The Quality of the Foundations", 1972) and *Seicoleg Cardotia* ("The Psychology of Begging", 1988). Particularly concerned about the effects of television on literature, and how to use the medium creatively, he grappled with some of the threats to a literate society in much the same way as cultural analysts like Richard Hoggart have done in England.

He also wrote monographs in Welsh on T.S. Eliot and T.H. Parry-Williams; his full biography of the latter is due to be



'Wales for me was a hearth, a home, a wonderful world, hidden, a proud possession of my own, a secret room that my English friends knew nothing about'

published by the University of Wales Press later this year. Among his miscellaneous prose are *Jamaican Interlude* (1977), an account of his time at Mandeville College, and several books in both Welsh and English about Ynys Enlli, the island off the furthermost tip of Llyn known in English as Bardsey, to which he was a frequent visitor. As a literary critic, he was always ready to put his gifts at the service of his English-speaking countrymen, publishing numerous reviews and articles in such magazines as *Poetry Wales* and *Planet*, in which he wrote engagingly about what was being produced in the Welsh language.

The professional career of R. Gerallt Jones reflected his restless energy and preference to be always "fully stretched". He began as a teacher of English at the Sir Thomas Jones School at Amwlch in Anglesey in 1957 but, four years later, was appointed lecturer in the Education Department at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth. After his sojourn in Jamaica, he returned to Wales in 1967 to take up the wardenship of Llandoverly College, a public school in Carmarthenshire and one of the few

in the whole of Wales, and there he remained until 1979.

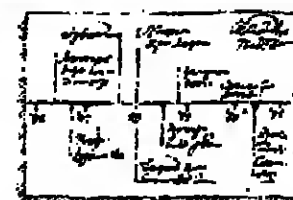
After a year spent as a freelance writer, he was appointed Senior Tutor in the Department of Extra-Mural Studies at Aberystwyth. From 1989 until his retirement in 1995 he was Warden of Gregynog Hall, the University of Wales residential study-centre near Newtown in Powys. It was in the last-named post, amid the old mansion's mock-Tudor architecture and splendid park, with access to a fine library and an ever-changing company of visiting students and academic staff, that his genial personality, wide interests and independent views were active on behalf of no political party; he was given fullest play. His dark, Venetian features, broad grin and generous disposition made him a popular Warden, although he sometimes gave the impression that the minutiae of administration held little appeal for him.

Although he once described himself as a reluctant committee man, the list of public bodies of which R. Gerallt Jones was a member is a long one. Principal among them was the Church in Wales, in which he had been brought up and to which he remained loyal throughout his adult life, despite his profound understanding of Nonconformist Wales and the pressures which had led to Dissent's establishment in 1920. He served as a lay reader in the Church in Wales, editor of its quarterly journal *Impact*, and a member of its Governing Body. But there was nothing narrow or exclusive about his allegiance to the Anglican Communion. In fact, he was interested in all religions, and I well recall how, during a trip to the Caucasus in the 1970s, he could not be kept from the icons and rites of the Georgian Orthodox Church.

Among other bodies on which he served were the Broadcasting Council for Wales, the Welsh Academy (of which he was chairman), the Welsh Arts Council, the Court of the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, the Welsh National Film and Video Archive, and the Board of Governors of S4C. To all these appointments he brought balanced judgement, a dry wit and a sense of humour, a deep knowledge of Wales and the Welsh language, looked out at England, Europe, and the wider world with a mixture of fascination, amusement, sympathy, and sometimes consternation.

MEIC STEPHENS

Robert Gerallt Hamlet Jones, writer and educationist: born Nefyn, Caernarvonshire 11 September 1934; Principal, Mandeville College, Jamaica 1965-67; Warden, Llandoverly College 1967-79; Senior Lecturer, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth 1979-89; Warden, Gregynog Hall 1989-95; married 1962 Susan Lloyd Griffith (two sons, one daughter); died Doly-bont, Ceredigion 9 January 1999.



HISTORICAL NOTES

EVA HOFFMAN

A multicultural experiment in Poland

THE HISTORY of Polish Jews is an example of a highly contested past. There are many such histories, subject to divergent collective memories - Serb and Croat, American and Indian. They serve as symbolic battlegrounds for their participants' moral truth and identity. What makes the conflict between Polish and Jewish memories especially intense is the enormous fact of the Holocaust - an event that took place largely on Polish soil, although it was neither planned nor executed by Poles.

The Holocaust casts its shadow backwards as well as forward, and often the entire history of Polish Jews is read retroactively in its dark light. But history isn't like story; it isn't a straightforward narrative, unfolding towards an inevitable finale. Before the terrible destruction, there were centuries of multifarious, vibrant life. Jews started settling in Poland as early as the 11th century, from the 18th century onwards, they comprised 10 or more per cent of Poland's population, which made them that country's largest minority, and a constituency with its own rights, problems and even powers. This was in marked contrast to other European countries, where Jews were never more than a tiny percentage of the whole.

Indeed, Polish-Jewish history can be seen as a centuries-long experiment in multiculturalism *avant la*

lettre. While there were undoubted strains of anti-Semitism in Polish culture, at least some of the tensions were caused by majority-minority antagonisms and conflicts of interest, still so familiar in polyethnic societies today.

In pre-modern times, Poland was often a refuge for Jews escaping from persecution elsewhere. The medieval Polish laws were surprisingly tolerant, granting Jews full religious and legal autonomy. This allowed the growing minority during the Renaissance to develop the splendid spiritual and political institutions which made Poland the centre of Jewish life in Diaspora. For about two centuries, there was something like a Jewish parliament in Poland, called the Council of Four Lands; there were religious seminaries, *yeshivas*, which drew students from all over Europe.

This golden age did not last. As Poland fell into economic chaos and was partitioned at the end of the 18th century, relations between Poles and Jews deteriorated, sometimes to the point of anti-Semitic violence. But, even during that fraught period of tangled political alliances and mutual resentments, there were moments when Poles and Jews joined forces, as during the series of insurrections mounted against the colonising Russians.

The shtetl - the word is a diminutive of Yiddish *shtet*, or

town - was where the multicultural experiment was at its most intimate, and least tested. This was where Poles and Jews traded with each other daily, picked up bits of each other's vocabulary and medicinal lore. This was also where they remained most spiritually separate and unfamiliar to each other.

The shtetl changed slowly; but, with the onset of the 20th century, the winds of modernity swept even through these traditional, Orthodox communities. The contradictory interludes between the two World Wars, after Poland regained its independence, saw the rise of nationalist, ideological anti-Semitism. But this was also a period when Jewish political and cultural life thrived, when every shtetl had upwards of a dozen Jewish political parties, and when Jewish literature was undergoing a great flowering.

It is impossible to know what would have happened to the shtetl, or to Polish Jewry, had their rich and fascinating world not been so abruptly extinguished. However, one cannot understand their history without bringing its two parts into interaction and dialogue with each other. Only from such dialogue can a full picture of the past begin to emerge.

Eva Hoffman is the author of *Shtetl: the history of a small town and an extinguished world* (Vintage, £7.99).

Computation of profits for corporation tax

A TAXPAYER company which had made payments of interest constituting charges on income and received foreign income subject to foreign tax qualifying for double taxation relief was not entitled to compute its profits in such a way as to produce an excess of charges on income capable of being carried forward to a subsequent accounting period.

The Court of Appeal dismissed Commercial Union's appeal against a decision of Harman J. dismissing its appeal against corporation tax assessments for the eight accounting periods in the years 1984 to 1991 and against the Revenue's refusal to allow its claim to carry forward losses in the form of excess charges on income in respect of the last three of those periods.

Commercial Union had profits including dividends in respect of which tax was payable under the laws of territories outside the UK. In each of the relevant periods Commercial Union had made payments of interest constituting charges on income and received foreign income subject to foreign tax qualifying for double taxation relief ("DTR"). It had purported to allocate to its foreign income only so much of the charges on income as would leave the corporation tax otherwise payable on that foreign income equal to and offset by DTR.

The primary issue on the appeal was whether Commercial Union was entitled to compute its profits in that way, producing an excess of charges on income capable of being carried forward to a subsequent accounting period.

WEDNESDAY LAW REPORT

13 JANUARY 1999

Commercial Union Assurance Co plc v Shaw (HMIT)
Court of Appeal (Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Brooke)
21 December 1998

Graham Aaronson QC and Malcolm Gammie (Linklaters & Paines) for Commercial Union; Ian Glick QC and Jonathan Peacock (Solicitor of Inland Revenue) for the Crown.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson said that Commercial Union submitted that DTR came within the words "other relief from tax" in section 338(1) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988, so that the total profits had to be treated as reduced by DTR. However, section 338(1) did not assist Commercial Union because DTR was not a relief from tax which reduced profits, but was a credit to be allowed against UK tax.

The scheme of the corporation tax legislation required first the ascertainment of income from a particular source and chargeable gains, as reduced by any relief applicable to income from that source or to those gains, then the ascertainment of the total profits by aggregating the income from

the various sources and the gains, as reduced by any relief applicable to those total profits. Once the amount of the net total profits had been ascertained the corporation tax *prima facie* chargeable on the total profits could be determined. That corporation tax might in turn be reduced or extinguished by other reliefs which were expressed to apply to that tax: only then was the amount of corporation tax payable ascertained.

Commercial Union further relied on the fact that it was entitled to use its power of allocation under section 797(3) to allocate charges on income in such amounts and to such of its profits as it chose. However, the right to allocate under section 797(3)(a) of the Act existed only for the purposes of the section, which was to set foreign tax against UK tax on the same profits, and Commercial Union had aimed beyond that limited purpose.

Moreover, the exercise of the right to allocate could not affect the calculation of whether in a given accounting period the charges on income paid by Commercial Union exceeded the amount of the profits against which they were deductible. Section 393(9) did not permit the carry forward of charges on income which were less than the amount of Commercial Union's profits against which they were deductible. Consistently with that, section 797(3) did not permit a company to allocate to profits a deduction greater than the amount necessary to reduce those profits to nothing.

KATE O'HANLON, Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

CHILD: On 9 January 1999, peacefully, at Treleke Hospital, Truro, Ema Child (nee Burdill), aged 55 years, of Cornwall, widow of Commander M.A.G. Child RN, actress, farmer and raconteur. Funeral service to be held at Glyn Valley Crematorium, Bodmin, Cornwall on Friday 15 January 1999 at 10.15am. Floral tributes if desired to Bodmin Funeral Services, Chapel of Rest, Bell Lane, Bodmin, Cornwall, 01208 78800.

MORSE: Nancy on 9 January 1999, aged 86 years, peacefully, in pain. Wife of the late David Morse. Mother of Jonathan, Anne and Oliver. Grandmother of Ross and Emily. Funeral at Doddington, near Wooler, Northumberland, on Saturday 16 January at 12 noon. No flowers please.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). **OTHER** Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Princess Royal presents the Institution of Incorporated Engineers Young

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Craigie Aitchison, painter, 73; Sir Brian Barratt-Boyes, heart surgeon, 76; Mr Clive Betts MP, an Assistant Whip, 49; Sir Johannes Ejlert-Petersen, former prime minister of Queensland, 88; Mr Richard Blackford, composer, 45; Mr Michael Bond, creator of "Paddington Bear", 73; Dr Sydney Brenner, biologist, 72; Sir John Cairnes, former senior civil servant, 68; Mr Edward Crew, Chief Constable, West Midlands, 53; Mr Tim Flavin, actor, dancer and singer, 40; Mr Stephen Hendry, snooker player, 30; The Right Rev Michael Henley, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, 60; Lord Johnston, a Senator of the College of Justice in Scotland, 57; Sir Liam McCullum, a Lord Justice of Appeal, Northern Ireland, 66; Mr Ronan Rafferty, golfer, 35; Sir Colin Shephard, former MP, 61; Mr Bernard Shrimley, journalist, 68; Mr Robert Stack, actor, 80; Mr Kenneth Turpin, former Vice-Chancellor, Oxford University, 84; The Right Rev Michael Vickers, Assistant Bishop, Blackburn, 70.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Jan Josephzoon van Goyen, landscape painter;

1596; Charles Perrault, collector and publisher of fairy tales, 1628; Paul Gavarni (Hippolyte-Guillaume Sulpice Chevalier), caricaturist, 1804; Jacques-Alfred-Félix Clément, musicologist, 1822; Horatio Alger, clergyman and author of boys' books, 1834; Heinrich Johann Hoffmann, pianist and composer, 1842; Wilhelm Wien, physicist, 1864; Charles Wellington Furse, painter, 1868; Prince Arthur Frederick Patrick, of Connaught, 1883; Louis de Rochemont, film producer and director, 1899; Oliver Hilary Saborne Messel, designer, 1905; Lord Willie (Edward Henry "Ted" Willis), playwright, 1918; Albert Lamorisse, film director, 1922.

Deaths: Edmund Spenser, poet, 1599; Maria Sibylla (Graf) Merian, painter and engraver, 1717; George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends, 1691; Stephen Collins Foster, song writer, 1864; Louis-Pierre Baltard, architect and engineer, 1874; General Victoriano Huerta, Mexican dictator, 1918; William Freud De Morgan, artist and writer, 1917; Sebastian Ziani de Ferranti, electrical engineer, 1930; Jean-Baptiste Marchand, soldier and explorer, 1934; James Joyce, novelist, 1941; Alfred Edgar Coppard, writer, 1957; Robert Still, composer, 1971; Hubert Horatio Humphrey, US vice-president, 1978.

On this day: William Lyon Mackenzie, Canadian rebel, was arrested in the United States, 1838; the Hudson's Bay Company acquired Vancouver Island, British Columbia, 1848; in Russia, provincial assemblies, known as Zemstvos were formed, 1864; conscription was introduced into Russia, 1874; the Vaudeville Theatre, London, second building, opened, 1891; the Independent Labour Party was formed under Keir Hardie, 1893; following the acquittal of Major Esterhazy, Emile Zola published his open letter "J'accuse" to the French president, 1898; Lee De Forest broadcast an opera from the stage of the Metropolitan, New York, 1910; South African troops occupied Swakopmund in German South-West Africa, 1915; 29,000 people died after a massive earthquake in Central Italy, 1915; a 388-carat diamond was found in a mine at Kimberley, South Africa, 1919; Sir Satyendra Prassano Sinha was the first Indian to become a peer, 1919; a plebiscite in the Saar voted for incorporation into Germany, 1935; in Silesia, the Red Army began a counter-offensive against the Germans, 1945; Britain appointed her first ambassador to Communist China, 1972; the world's largest airport was opened in Dallas, Texas, US, 1974; the French newspaper *Libération* pub-

lished a list of 32 members of the CIA in Paris, 1976; a Boeing 737 aircraft crashed into a bridge on the Potomac river, killing 78 people, 1982.

Today is the Feast Day of St Agreusius, St Berno and St Hilary of Poitiers.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Mari Griffiths, "Push Buttons (II): Lancet, A Lady in a Garden taking Coffee with some Children", 1pm. **Victoria and Albert Museum:** Gareth Williams, "Swell: products and projects by 'Inflate'", 2pm. **Tate Gallery:** Stuart Currie, "A Quiet River and Stormy Seas: the nature of change in Constable's pictures", 1pm. **National Portrait Gallery:** Zella Cheate, "The John Koval Photographic Portrait Award 98 Series (I). Changing Faces: a review of the work of past entrants", 1.10pm. **Royal Academy of Arts, London W1:** Rachel Whitehead lectures on her recent work, 6.30pm (telephone 0171-300 5665 for tickets).

APPOINTMENTS

Mr A. de P. Bueno QC, Mr D.J. Farrer QC, Mr D.R.L. Bodey QC and Miss L.S. Godfrey QC, to be Masters of the Bench of Middle Temple.

Lancaster Hotel, London W2.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts

the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

IN A free-association test any mention of Larry Flynn's magazine *Hustler* would surely not prompt the reply 'Hello!'. They are poles apart, however, does lead one to reflect upon a new usage which the word has acquired. The issue does not contain the promised revela-

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
hello, interj.

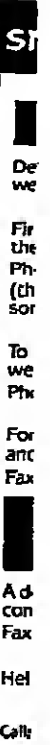
tions about Bob Livingstone, but recumbent in 20-year-old photographs is Dr Laura Schlessinger, now a highly moralistic wireless agony

aunt. She is in the habit of silencing callers with stern advice and then asking, "hello? hello?" to make them feel even more idiotic. It was not long before kindergarten playgrounds echoed to the tapping of dunderheads' brows and the query "hello?" when something had not sunk in. Such tactics have spread to banking circles.

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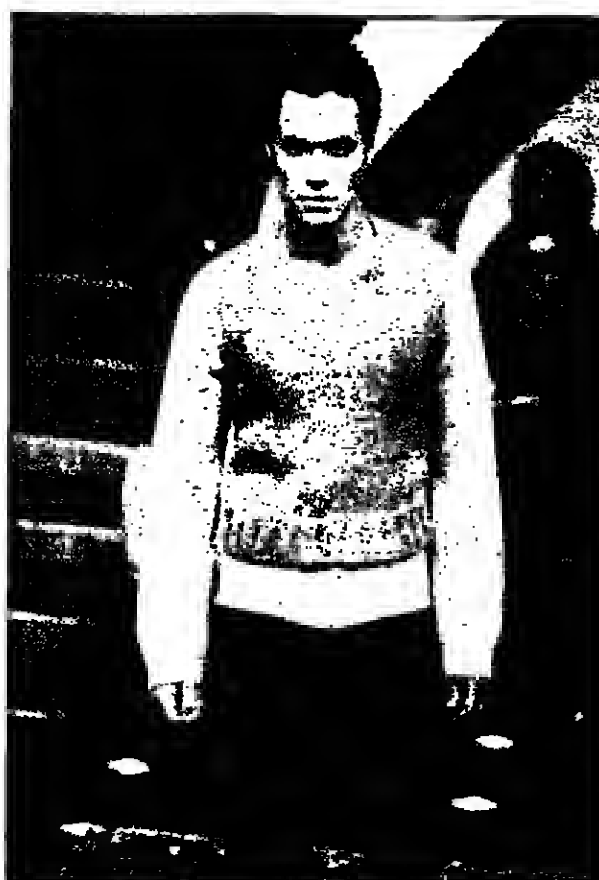
صَدَقْنَا مِنَ الْإِسْلَامِ



Emporio Armani



Prada



Dolce & Gabbana



Vivienne Westwood

There are no trends in menswear. As the Milan shows proved, it's only the details that change. By Melanie Rickey

Suits you, signore

Milan harbours the most popular menswear labels in the world. Ask any man to name their ultimate label and chances are Prada, Miu Miu, Gucci, Dolce & Gabbana, Armani, Versace and Calvin Klein will be on the list. If not, perhaps Jil Sander, Jean Paul Gaultier, Vivienne Westwood, Issey Miyake or John Richmond make the grade. All show in Milan where, in the last five days, the most important event in the men's fashion calendar, the autumn/winter 1998/99 collections – unofficially dubbed Millennium Men – has been taking place.

Let's get one thing clear. Men's fashion is not about big trends. There are no rising or falling hemlines here, no hair or make-up looks, no question of flat or high shoes, just (for the most part) fabulous clothes. What trends there are don't happen overnight, rather they evolve gradually season or season. As everyone who's anyone told me throughout the week: it's all in the details, the fabrics, the feel. A suit is a suit, after all. David Bradshaw of *Arena* – he's also fashion consultant to Prada – explained: "These shows help men make the decision of which black suit to buy. All the fashion forward detailing is in the sportswear, and this helps to sell the suits because, for obvious reasons, the suit can't change much." Except, of course, in the details.

One of the most prominent fashion "details" of the last few seasons has been the Velcro fastening. It continues to pop up on everything from tailored suits, shirts and coats to trainers, as well as on sportswear where it belongs. For autumn/winter, however, the practical, no-fluff collecting zip looks set to make a welcome return. Jil Sander's padded body-warmer ripped up to a funnel neck (funnel necks on everything is another important detail), as did her shirts. At Issey Miyake the arctic outerwear – big, green-grey parkas, huge white puffs, and combat boots – featured industrial tips. At the hot new American label Richard Edwards, a padded army green body-warmer had zip-on-zip-off arms, while an army green coat had a zip-out lining. At Costume National, zips were used to conceal boots within the collars of tailored suits.

A shift in colour palette was also in evidence: from mainly white and grey for the coming summer, to mainly black and grey (yep, it's still there), with dashes of bright colour thrown in for good measure. Tomato red was given a good airing at Gucci and Costume National in shiny hide jackets, at Jil Sander in knitwear, and at Prada. Orange was the strong colour of choice at John

Richmond. Dirty army green and shades of beige and cream and navy were also popular across the board. Versus went for baby pink and brown together, and Vivienne Westwood and Jean Paul Gaultier went all out for colour.

This season has proved to be special because of the millennium issue and each designer addressed the "what to wear for the party to end all parties" in their own way. Almost every show included a tuxedo, or modern tuxedo derivative. Gucci's tuxedo pants were glamorous in white or black with red piping along the outside leg, and worn with shiny pony-skin biker-inspired jackets. Issey Miyake's was traditional. Giorgio Armani's was James Bond slick. Cerruti's was for a modern-day Sacha Distel, buttoned low for a laid-back look. Gaultier's appeared to be hand-knitted. Dirk Bikkembergs' was in leather. Dolce & Gabbana's was slim and mafia sexy and Versace's was aggressive, raunchy and very rock'n'roll.

The common denominator in all of these suits was their shape: unanimously single breasted jackets with flat-front pants, many of which were straight and loose through the leg. And that takes care of the black suits, which has incidentally made the store buyers very happy. Damian Shaw, the contemporary menswear buyer from Liberty, had a few important check-points for his buying strategy – the first, if it's black it sells; the second, leg shape. Too baggy is bad. So is too straight. And they must look good on the bum. Gucci, Bikkembergs, Prada and Costume National scored there.

Vivienne Westwood and Jean Paul Gaultier provided the fun millennial party gear. Westwood showed silver and gold sequin pants tucked into knee-high boots and ring-master jackets with military detailing, yet amongst the high camp there was softly coloured spearmint and chocolate knitwear, moleskin pants and tweed suits. She scored with her tartan kilt-shirt-tie-and-knee-high socks ensembles, which managed to look manly even in raspberry and lilac. Gaultier, too, included his signature kilts, but his showpiece, a sequin-embroidered biker jacket with 1999/2000 worked into the arms, was a definite camp winner.

There were plenty of fashion trends that have been creeping up on sartorially motivated men for some time now. Chunky, shrunken-to-the-body multi-ply hand knits – many in soft cashmere – looked fantastic in the McQueen line, at Costume National, and especially at Dolce & Gabbana. Biker motifs were also strong. Embroidery, shine and sequins were in evidence across the board, done best at Dolce & Gabbana on army T-shirts, on tanks at Gaultier, and on the worn-

in jeans at Gucci which were held up with a rope belt and worn with velvet tuxedo jackets.

Macho furs made a somewhat disturbing impact on the proceedings. Versace went for wolf as coat linings, on collars and trouser edging. Gucci and Gaultier did fur hiker jackets. Dolce & Gabbana did full-length mink pants, while Prada showed a fur sports jacket with a face-protecting hood. Trussardi, the worst offender, used beaver, wolf, crocodile and snake.

If only it were fake. These items may never make it into British shops, a fact the Italians are aware of, but not bothered by. Indeed the English attitude to fur is laughed at by foreigners, who think we're prissy. Perhaps someone should send them on an educational trip to a fur farm.

If, come autumn, the average male is rushing out to buy his black suit, more fashion-conscious men might be distracted by sportswear. In fact, this has been the biggest single revolution in men's fashion this decade. As Nick Sullivan, the associate editor of *Arena*, pointed out after the perfectly executed hit-of-the-season Prada show, "Five years ago everyone here (male editors and buyers) would have been wearing suits, now look at them." Indeed, a look at the fashion pack is a good indicator of things as they stand.

There's a black suit worn with Prada red-line sneakers and a big parka with a fur hood over there; a funnel-neck, snow-white jumper, tailored trousers and sneakers over here; a body-warmer with combat pants and boots to my right. Sullivan is sure the sportswear thing is at its height now. "When even the most conservative of designers are doing elements of luxury sportswear it is a sure sign a change will be in the air. But the Italians are best at it. After seeing the Prada show you think, yes, it's got mileage," he says.

Louisa de Paula, the contemporary menswear buyer for Selfridges, was in agreement. "Menswear now is about uniform dressing. I call it 'Subconscious Millennial Dressing'," she says. "Men have totally changed the way they dress in the last 10 years. Now there are no rules. Function and utility looks have become the norm."

Indeed the Prada show summed up the mood of the collections perfectly. So here are a few tips. Boots are ankle or midcalf in tough, toffee-coloured leather. Tailoring is slim and hard, in grey, desert khaki, army green and black. Car coats and duffels are hooded, with padded elbows. Long padded coats are belted in, and pants are cropped. The Prada Sport line included waterproofs, sneakers, bags and hats – all of which had "must-have" stamped all over them. But you'll have to wait until September to buy them – sorry.



Versace

Photographs: Chris Moore



Richard Edwards



Gucci



Issey Miyake



Jean Paul Gaultier

What's in a voice? According to Jonathan Rée's new book, as much as your very soul. By Rachel Halliburton

And the ears have it

Admittedly, it wasn't as mad as the harpsichord that made cats mew different notes by sticking needles up their bottoms. Even so, few thought that the Parisian Jesuit, Louis Bertrand Castel, would succeed in his mission to build a keyboard which played music entirely in colour. Taking as his cue Isaac Newton's theory that the seven main colours of the spectrum could be ranged across the notes of an octave, the mad inventor built a series of instruments whose elaborate multicoloured mechanisms – variously using glass prisms, candles, dyed cloths and lanterns – all proved to be woefully ineffective at emptying concert-halls. In the end, he realised his ambitions were more likely to be prey to Newton's theory of gravity than to his dreams of colour music and, after his final project came tumbling round his ears in 1757, he turned up his toes and died.

The point to this story, as Jonathan Rée will tell you, is that people should resist the temptation to draw too many analogies between the visible world and the world of hearing. Although, as he writes, "science tells us... that seeing is simply what happens when light enters our eyes, and hearing when sound enters our ears", the excited attempts of Newton, Castel and others to draw parallels between the two always results in confusion.

In his book, *I See a Voice* – published next Monday – he reveals that Castel's dilemma, far from being a piece of historical trivia, forms the basis for understanding one of the most controversial linguistic debates to rage over the past three centuries. The question of how to create an effective system of communication between the deaf and the hearing population – and therefore to translate the essentially oral methods of teaching language into visual representations – was a source of frequent debate from the 18th century onwards. Not only did it reveal the prejudices surrounding the voice, but it also provoked a series of challenging and ultimately revealing questions about the nature of language itself.

The fact that "dumb" can still mean stupid is only the tip of an iceberg of centuries' prejudice. At its murky depths lies the practice of killing children born deaf – in ancient Greece and Rome it was legal to dispose of deaf offspring when they were as old as three – while in Jewish Mosaic law deaf people were not allowed to own property.

Having tempted the reader in with these historical facts, Rée takes a quick side-step to literature, pointing out that while those struck blind – such as Oedipus or Samson – are normally dignified, the deaf and dumb are often reduced to victims, like Hans Christian Andersen's little mermaid, or even worse, objects of ridicule. Finally he pulls the reader into the book's heart, the realm of "hardcore" philosophy, where he



Words and pictures: John Bulwer's 1640s sign language, a 'virgin Philosophie of gesture'

shows – for example – that when certain 18th-century philosophers said the deaf were doomed to remain like animals, leading minds such as Immanuel Kant agreed, saying that since speech was the source of civilisation, the dumb could never attain the faculty of reason.

I See a Voice actively draws the reader to indulge in metaphysical musings about what it would be like to be deprived of a sense, and starts by analysing the relative prejudices

over the centuries to the importance of eye and the ear. As I entered Rée's flat in this frame of mind, it struck me how much you could still pick out with only your ears to navigate. The Indian music drifting up from the floor below indicates the convenient proximity of a curry-house, while the clunk of shoes on the bare floorboards and the softly licking flicker of the flames from the coal fire in the grate give some clues about the cosy, yet minimalist mode

of decoration. And Rée's voice, which hovers around the tenor range, is constantly on the brink of laughter, though its speech patterns are measured and analytical – full of pauses for thought.

The voice and its role are the crux of the book. Historically, there have been many claims about the voice's powers: some have put forward the notion that it is a reflection of the soul, others that it represents our power to participate in politics (the German



Jonathan Rée: the Charles Dickens of philosophy? Tom Cruik

"Stimme", which means voice, also means "vote", points out Rée).

"One of the things that started me on the subject was noticing that people find it very difficult to say when a 'voice' is being used metaphorically and when it's being used literally," he explains. "For example, you can talk about the voice of conscience, or you can talk about madness in terms of hearing voices – so it seemed like a rather clever topic to fix on... though it does lead absolutely everywhere."

The resulting eclectic philosophical history is full of gems of historical tales and provocative questions about the interpretations of the senses. One of the most entertaining theories about the voice is put forward by the Renaissance metaphysician Francis Mercury Van Helmont, who announced that the voice was a manifestation of sexual power – and its energy was derived from semen held back from physical emission.

"One of the things that I told myself quite early was that I wanted to write philosophy like Charles Dickens – I wanted to have lots of colourful narrative, lots of stories. I didn't feel that I was going outside philosophy in order to find illustrations. It was more the case that philosophy was already there out in the world if you looked for it."

If provoked, Rée will admit that he is a man with a mission. He is angry that a lot of 20th-century philosophers have been so anxious to take an academically respectable, scientific approach to philosophy that "they actually turn their back on what makes philosophy deserve to earn an important place in culture. It's terribly unfortunate that most people's idea of the subject is derived from books called *A History of Western Philosophy*. They sit on the same shelf as the atlas – and it does give you the sense of philosophy as a set of rather abstruse doctrines held dogmatically by rather boring people."

To counter that perception, Rée

has developed a new mode of enquiry, which he describes as "philosophical history" – as distinct from a history of philosophy – which draws philosophy back into the territory that was initially staked out by Plato, asking simple questions about our perceptions of everyday life and culture through looking at our changing attitudes through history. He would like to become for philosophy "what Simon Schama is for history", though he recoils slightly when it is suggested that there could be any similarity between his methods of reasoning a child-like wonder in the subject and those of Jostein Gaarder, the author of the teenage philosophy hit *Sophie's World*.

Before I leave the flat, I ask him whether the extensive philosophical expedition he has taken through concepts of the voice and theories of language has changed his childhood reflections that he would "far rather be deaf than blind".

"I'd rather be blind," he says, and then there is a long, thoughtful pause... "If it had to be one or the other."

I See a Voice is published by HarperCollins on Monday



A bit of pointing and shoving

DANCE

CINDERELLA
ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET
LONDON COLISEUM

THIS CINDERELLA is much the best of Prokofiev's three-act ballet scores, but you would scarcely know that from English National Ballet's production. The music is somewhat raucously played by the ENO Orchestra under Patrick Flynn's direction, losing the composer's contrast between sweet and harsh; but, more important, the choreography seems to me to run directly counter to what Prokofiev intended.

True, Michael Corder has assembled a multiplicity of steps: not quite one to every note, but enough to satisfy balletomanes who want only to see dancers in hectic movement all the time. But he seems not to have noticed that *Cinderella* has a story, and that the score was written to serve that story. And the sense of form which Corder shows in his best works entirely forsakes him here.

So the dancers who represent the four seasons, for instance, come on and do more or less interchangeable duets, with nothing spring-like, summery, autumnal or wintry about them. Even the characters who you would expect to have strong individuality fail to show it: the stepsisters, the fairy godmother, even the heroine. A bit of pointing and shoving for the former; a wispy benevolence for the latter pair; is likewise we come to any sense of purpose.

Consequently, the ballet lacks both fun and romance. The occasional bits that aim at comedy don't get much of a laugh, and for the love story, you will have to look hard and use a lot of imagination to find anything moving or ripping. Even the charismatic Patrick Armbrust as the Prince in the opening could not achieve more than a temporary suspension of incredulity.

His *Cinderella* (four others are due to follow) was Larissa Ponomarenko, as smooth and elegant a dancer as you would expect from her Petersburg training, but too impassive facially most of the time to make as much of an impression as she ought. The rest of the cast was never less than proficient, but that they had to do held them back. Simone Clarke and Elisabeth Miesge as the stepsisters deserve credit for generating at least a sense of liveliness; Christopher Hampson's elegance as the dancing-master was sabotaged because his role just doesn't make sense, either in the implausible lesson he gives or in his inappropriate guest spot at the ball.

David Walker's designs are as dull as the choreography (he thanks for small mercies; at least they avoid the tacky extravagance of his Covent Garden *Cinderella* for Ashby's version). The tiny tot sitting in front of me with her ballet-crit's mama looked bored all evening, and who could blame her?

JOHN PERCIVAL

In tune with the buzz

THINK OF any Haydn string quartet between Op 6 and Op 77 No 2 and you could have heard it last weekend, not in Esterháza but in Manchester. Quartets of all ages, from the younger end of Chetham's School of Music to the old hands of Quatuor Nostalgique – persuaded out of quartet retirement for the occasion – assembled for a HaydnFest at the Royal Northern College of Music (RNCM).

Legendary quartets such as the Amadeus and the Aeolian were represented by Siegmund Nissel and Emanuel Hurwitz passing on some of their wealth of experience in masterclasses. Haydn enthusiasts, many eagerly following scores, mingled with student string players and curious casual concert-goers; instrument makers plied their wares; academics discussed the merits of various editions.

On paper HaydnFest represented the kind of exercise beloved of concert promoters,

CLASSICAL

HAYDNFEST '99
ROYAL NORTHERN
COLLEGE OF MUSIC
MANCHESTER

more obsessed with numbers than creative planning: musically it was a refreshing and stimulating way to start the new year. It was ambitious, too, in that, unlike the Edinburgh Festival's 1996 series of 46 quartets in 18 concerts, HaydnFest somehow managed to squeeze all 69 quartets into 14 concerts in just three packed days, with performances at morning, noon and night, in tea and coffee concerts, and even in a HaydnSeek children's concert.

Whether or not you go with 68 string quartets or 69, whether you count the string quartet version of *Seven Last Words*, whether you are taken in by the spurious pieces by Hoffmeister, some of which were

slipped into the *Nachtmusik* concerts here, you couldn't fail to applaud this opportunity to hear the complete string quartets of the composer who invented the medium as we know it. If, as Goethe once said, "a good quartet is like listening to a stimulating conversation between four intelligent people" then HaydnFest had plenty of sociability. No doubt it also had its party boro, but fortunately I missed them.

The Brodsky Quartet, all former RNCM students and now celebrating 25 years as a quartet, opened their concert with one of the most dramatic openings in the whole of Haydn's quartets, Op 54 No 2 in C.

But this was perhaps a too civilised conversation, all poised charm at the expense of theatricality. There was a disappointing absence of interplay between the instruments in the chirrupy quavers of Op 33 No 3 in C, "The Bird", and a

polished finesse rather than any sense of spontaneity dominated the unruly last movement of Op 76 No 4 in B flat, "Sunrise".

Closing the festival, the Endellion Quartet's dialogue was far more riveting, with lively discussion in the opening movement of Op 50 No 6 in D, "Frog", and delightfully witty repartee in the croaking baroque of the last movement.

Candles stuck into old wine bottles gave a welcome air of informality to the late-night student quartets raising bows against the buzz of low laughter and chatter in the bar below the Senior Common Room. Haydn, who first wrote quartets for amateur players to enjoy with guests in their salons, would surely have approved.

LYNNE WALKER

The first of three broadcast recitals from HaydnFest is on BBC Radio 3 tomorrow at 1pm, featuring the Brodsky Quartet

Skeletons at a funeral

THEATRE

THE MEMORY OF WATER
VAUDEVILLE, LONDON

FUNERALS ARE handy functions for a dramatist, providing the perfect excuse for yanking back into tense proximity people who are still fizzling with unresolved conflicts from a shared and much disputed past. Pop a corpse in a coffin and out of the cupboard a skeleton is bound to tumble.

Or rather, a whole slew of skeletons, in Shelagh Stephenson's often wickedly funny and moving play *The Memory of Water*, in which three sisters return to their Yorkshire childhood home for the interment of their mother. Tempers aren't improved by the snowy weather or, for one of them, by the recurrent appearance of the mother's ghost.

A riotously well-observed look at the social stresses of bereavement, the play is also a shrewd meditation on the subjective, competitive and self-preserving nature of memory that so often distorts and tailors recollections to fit in with a personal agenda or sense of grievance. It was a big hit three years ago on its first airing at Hampstead.

Someone has had the commercially smart idea of reviving Terry Johnson's production with starrer principals and now, after a successful regional tour, it arrives in the West End.



Samantha Bond (left) and Margot Leicester in Shelagh Stephenson's 'The Memory of Water' Nigel Norrington

The casting is cunning in that two of the actresses are already lodged in the public mind as fictional daughters: Samantha Bond from *Amy's View* and Julia Sawalha from *Ab Fab*. Bond brings a fine, caustic superciliousness and an air of heartache to the role of Mary, the posh, high-flying doctor and victim of her own success who harbours a boyfriend who won't leave his ME-stricken wife, and

a painful void left by the baby she was forced to give up at the age of 14. Bond is perhaps a bit generalised and over-actressy, her pukka tones rarely lapsing, as they would, into Mary's original northern accent in moments of unguarded emotional intensity. But she is a credible irritant to her siblings – Sawalha's druggy, promiscuous and manipulatively hypochondriacal Catherine, and

Teresa, played by Alison Seedman in magnificent form. A frantic health food freak who pops "completely organic" nerve pills (Stephenson's Teresa puts on one of the best displays of mouthy drunk behaviour I have ever seen. As unstop-pable as the whisky bottle, she is gripping, she gives vent to home truths of wildly variable accuracy. Then, leaving her slumped head up from the bed-spread, she demands: "How could you do this to me?")

Johnson's highly entertaining production keeps skilful control of the tone, which has to encompass everything from whooping, drug-fuelled high jinks, to whoring mother's things out into a giddy fashion parade, to Mary's troubled meetings with Margot Leicester's revenant spirit.

The production can't disguise the fact that the dramatic current flows with a fluctuating strength, or that the ghost is a bit *de trop*, or that some of the themes sit a little lumpy on the proceedings. But Stephenson has a sure instinct for the quirky side of life (one character arrives having spent six hours trapped in a train with "a woman from Carlisle who runs a puppet theatre for the deaf"), and is certainly a talent to watch.

AUL TAYLOR

A version of this review appeared in last edition of yesterday's paper

13 15 January at 7pm, 16 January at 2pm & 7pm

THE GOLDEN COCKEREL
NIKOLAY RIMSKY-KORSAKOV

Sadler's Wells

Rosemary Avenue, Islington, EC3 Ticket Office: 0171 863 8000 24 Hour Hotline: 0870 842 2226

Brad Fraser has written a play about an openly gay politician. Fortunately, Martin Yesterday still has things to hide. By Paul Taylor

You don't pay the fruit...

When it was announced a couple of years ago that Brad Fraser, the award-winning cult Canadian dramatist, had signed a contract with Disney, one's first thought was: what on earth is he going to write for them: *101 Biscuits*? In plays such as *Unidentified Human Remains* and *The True Nature of Love*, and *Poor Super Man*, Fraser has situated his dark, laconically witty art on the slippery boundaries between diverse sexual orientations and identities. Whether charting the travails of a transsexual denied the operation s/he so desperately craves because s/he's dying of Aids in *Poor Super Man*, or inserting a submissive gay man with a cleft palate into *The Ugly Man* (his hilarious lust-in-dust B-movie makeover of Middleton's *Changing*), Fraser has never been one to compromise, or to stint on graphic depictions of naked coupling. The Disney news was rather like hearing that Mark Ravenhill had been hired to present *Blue Peter*.

So when I rang him in Canada to talk about the English premiere of *Martin Yesterday* - his latest stage piece, which opens next week at Manchester's Royal Exchange - I was curious to know how this odd conjunction had fared. All too predictably it was a case of a movie written, paid for and not made. "It's about a mad scientist who is magically able to change people's faces. The title was *Beauty*," he said. "Something tells you that the author of *The Ugly Man*, a play that's mischievously astute about the perverse attractions of the repulsive ("I don't mind looking at your face," whispers the adoring gay character. "That won't be necessary," replies the hunch, disfigured bisexual, none too cryptically) does not conceive of beauty in any fun-for-all-the-family, *Beauty-and-the-Beast* sort of way. Peter Hall remarks in his *Diaries* that you can learn an awful lot

about a playwright's creative personality from listening to the way he himself speaks. This is certainly true of Fraser, who has a deep, burly voice which (a bit like Gore Vidal's) is in piquant contrast to the knowing flouncy curtness to the exchanges in the plays, as when, in *Poor Super Man*, a married character objects to his estranged gay artist lover exhibiting nude paintings of him, and tries to assert his rights. "I inspired them," he pleads. "You don't pay the fruit when you do a still life," comes the succinctly

Martin, an appreciably older Toronto alderman. The most egregious gay politician in modern drama is the virulent real-life homosexual homophobe Roy Cohn, to whom Tony Kushner gave mythic dimensions in *Angels in America*, and who made just about the toughest figure imaginable for gay people to acknowledge as one of their own. Martin Yesterday is, by contrast, openly gay and HIV-positive and, therefore, potentially prime paragon material. As Matt's female business partner remarks: "I read an article that says people are actually more likely to vote for an out gay politician than a straight one, because they think the out person has more integrity." But Martin Yesterday seems to have emerged from the closet to make more room for the unsavoury secrets he needs to huddle back in there. The instinct to help fellow homosexuals, admirable in his public life, becomes perverted in his private life to the kind of charity that creates mutual exploitation and heartless dependency. Martin's taste, moreover, is for very young men such as Rex, the pan-sexual hustler with the coke problem who pays for his bed in Martin's apartment by letting him play abusive "daddy" fantasies with him. "I'm not afraid to say what I see, whether it's pleasant or not," comments Fraser, justifying his depiction of Martin, whose self-compromised political career he views as an illustration of how "we lack leadership with true integrity. Nobody seems to live up to their own expectations of themselves."

A strip-cartoon artist on the side, Fraser uses comic-book characters as symbols and metaphors, as when Super Man's concealed alien status is provided, in that eponymous play, a sardonic parallel for the central character's marooned feeling of living a life in the midst of strangers. In *Martin Yesterday*, the parallel is more overtly political. Matt invents the Deceptive Elf ("this spy from Quebec who's trying to find out how

English Canada really feels about Quebecers"). A drama about partnerships, commitment and separation is played against a background of cultural separatism in a nation that is itself like an unhappy, disputatious couple. Rows at the drawing-board in Matt's office raise the whole contentious issue of how far, if at all, oppressed minorities are interchangeable as metaphors of

each other. One "minority" that perhaps hasn't had its due in his work is that of women. Fraser's female characters tend to be underwritten, saddled with partner problems that are the palest shadow of those experienced by the men and given to looking at the gay community with a peevish mixture of envy and puzzled resentment. I'm pleased to hear, though, that Fraser has resurrected Violet, gay Matt's slow-on-the-uptake wife from *Poor Super Man*, in a forthcoming play, *Snake in the Pridge*, a piece he refers to, with a tantalising laugh, as "about a group of young people on the fringes of the sex industry who have a great time in a haunted house". And what has happened to poor divorced Violet? "She's become a pornographer."

From her previous CV, this would seem about as likely as her becoming the Dalai Lama. But maybe the highly talented Fraser has now graduated to the point where he can start to use women characters to test those sexual boundaries.



Brad Fraser: 'I'm not afraid to say what I see, whether it's pleasant or not'

Lorca, Dali, Buñuel: their naughtiness lives on

What connects Brecht with Spanish surrealism? Hayley Carmichael, of course. By David Benedict

UNTIL VERY recently, Hayley Carmichael was a fairly well kept secret. Not any more. Her hilarious, profoundly touching performance as an upper-class girl falling for a chauffeur in Kathryn Hunter's Almeida *The Right Size* production of *Mr Puntilla and His Man Matti*, has changed all that.

Even as she natters before a performance, you see her giving herself up to ideas. Her expression keeps changing as emotions register across her freshly scrubbed face and thoughts race behind her eyes. Her brow furrows with puzzlement, then suddenly her expression changes, bewildered, whisked away by laughter. It all sounds very "actorish", but that's the last word you would use to describe her.

Although she's around 30, she looks extraordinarily young - she's extremely good at innocence - and, at the same time much, much older, helped by a Judi Dench-like crack in her voice. Best of all, she has the rare gift that true comic performers have: being able to stretch time. Her characters hit upon an idea and her directness and physical economy draw you in as she works through a particular moment in a way that looks utterly spontaneous.

Not that she's a bundle of confidence. "The other night I came off after the first scene and said to another actor, 'Oh, they really don't want me to come back on stage.' And he said, 'Why ever not?' You realise that personal paranoia is so not interesting. You can't indulge yourself like that. Just get on with it."

Mr Puntilla closed on Saturday and on Thursday she joins her company, Told By An Idiot, to perform *I Weep at My Piano* as part of the London International Mime Festival.

The show is drawn from the work of Lorca, Dali and Buñuel, but don't expect a three-for-the-price-of-one hio-drama. "We were inspired by their imagination and their, well, naughty spirit. It's a piece in their image. We wanted to make a piece

about them but also about something that we understood, so as to open it up to an audience. Things about friendship, loving someone who doesn't love you."

Told By An Idiot is a strikingly successful threesome. They met at Middlesex College, where John Wright was a teacher and Carmichael and Paul Hunter were students. A few years later, Hunter suggested working together on a tiny part of *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. That became *On the Verge of Exploding* and, a year later, Wright joined them to do it at Edinburgh. Gradually, with the help of their manager Nick Sweeting, they began to tour further afield. They formalised



from Nymel

I Weep at My Piano is at BAC from Thursday (0171-223 2223)

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ON THE FRINGE
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I'VE HEARD of product placement, but *A Special Offer* really takes the biscuit and poses with it. Where most firms that help out small productions have to content themselves with a token mention on an A4 programme-sheet, Sharps Bedrooms gets top billing in the rising theatre designers Alice Power's and Alice Purcell's contribution to the London International Mime Festival: an entire "Buckingham" suite has been built in the Young Vic studio, and Sharps' logo is displayed on a help desk.

But the bedding people must have a sense of humour, as, in dissecting the consumerist heart of modern coupledom, *A Special Offer* mocks the sterile aesthetic of the ideal home and the fitted interior. A prematurely middle-aged husband and wife (Mick Barnfather and Lisa Gornick), run through precisely observed daily routines with no sense of progression but a continual air of self-congratulation. They go to bed, wake up, make the bed, and immediately wind down

again, droning on about gardening, commuting and other couples. Their relationship is as sexless as their red satin shiny duvet.

Insistent pan-piped Muzak (courtesy of Nigel Piper, a John Hegley acolyte); customer announcements - ("Mr Fisher has been separated from his wife"); and the intrusions of a operating shop assistant (Rebecca Gale) - threaten to expose the relationship as a bizarre sales ploy. But even when the wigs are off, the behaviour remains resolutely display-oriented.

There are some angry confessional in which each partner outlines his or her frustrations and fears for their individuality, but banality gets the upper hand. "I feel I want to say something about world peace, but I'm not sure what it is," the wife says, adding, after a beat: "I'm not looking forward to the menopause."

At times it feels as though the scenario is too two-dimensional to provide wall-to-wall interest. But bursts of surreal activity

(animal impersonations, a perfect spoof *Black Magic* ad) keep your eyes fixed on Barnfather and Gornick - a great bad couple. It's an impudent reminder that there's more to life than making a bed and lying in it.

Threesomes, by Laurence Pritchard, also risks being as boring as the dead-end lives of its protagonists, but is so wryly scripted and so beautifully performed in Ken McClymont's Old Red Lion production that it leaves you hooked.

Easy and Scruff (James Thornton and Rob Jarvis) are two flat-sharing drifters bound together by their druggy clubbing days, but tension starts mounting when it emerges that Scruff has been associating with Easy's ex, Ruth (Raquel Cassidy), and with vicious dealers at the notorious club where Easy was once a DJ. The shifting balances of power are ably charted. Well worth a look.

Threesomes, Old Red Lion, EC1 (0171-337 7816), to 30 Jan; *A Special Offer*, Young Vic, London, SE1 (0171-928 6363)

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It's all downhill from here

Paying off your mortgage early leaves you free to spend more on enjoying life.
By Nic Cicutti

The idea of paying our mortgages off early is one that most of us have entertained. And why not? It offers the opportunity of doing more exciting things with the cash. And, at last, there are growing signs that home buyers are recognising this fact. Increasing numbers of borrowers are asking for shorter mortgage terms than ever before.

They still want a good deal – such as an attractive fixed rate. But, just as importantly, they want the flexibility to decide exactly how long they will pay this mortgage for. An ideal loan would combine the two options.

The good news is that it is far easier to shorten the life of a home loan than you think. While it may cost a little more in the short run, setting aside an extra pound or two a week can lop months, perhaps years, off a 25-year mortgage term, saving you thousands of pounds of interest in the process.

The reason for these potential savings are simple. Whenever we take out a home loan, we agree to pay it off at a certain rate of interest. Over a typical 25-year term, the total amount of interest that must be repaid can be triple the sum originally borrowed.

Take an £30,000 repayment loan. At variable rates of 7.7 per cent, monthly payments are £592.57 and the interest payable over 25 years is £113,025. Simply by paying an extra £10 a month the interest saved would be £6,641. The repayment period itself would be reduced to 23 years and eight months.

Paying an extra £30 a month towards the same mortgage would bring interest savings of £14,657, reducing its term to 21 years and 10 months. An additional payment of £50 cuts the term to 20 years and four months, saving £20,983 in interest.



Why spend your most active years being frugal? By paying your mortgage over a shorter period, you could be saving money and having fun

In fact, one relatively unexplored concept among borrowers is that of early mortgage repayment as an investment in itself. Paying a mortgage more quickly is equivalent to earning the same rate of interest as the amount actually charged on the loan itself – tax free.

So, repaying an 8 per cent variable rate loan becomes the equivalent of earning 10.56 per cent gross for lower-rate taxpayers, or 11.2 for those on a higher marginal rate.

Many borrowers may have taken

out a 25-year endowment policy or may have made sizeable contributions into a pension, on the assumption that the 25 per cent tax-free lump sum will be enough to pay off the loan at retirement. They assume that, having made the decision several years ago, they have to live with it today.

However, with annuity rates falling as they have been, people would be better off using all their pension fund for retirement purposes. As for endowments, it still

makes sense to keep on paying into one until it matures. Instead of linking it to the new mortgage, borrowers can choose a traditional capital and interest option. The policy will still produce a large lump sum – but now it can be used for any purpose, not just to repay the loan.

As interest rates fall, so does the monthly cost of a mortgage. In turn, this means that, if we could afford to keep payments at the same rate as before, the loan is repaid that much faster.

It also makes sense to take advantage of falling long-term interest rates – fixed mortgages are now lower than they have been for three years.

Many of the most flexible loans are offered by lenders who calculate interest payable on a daily basis rather than once a year, which means that any payments are instantly credited to your mortgage account. Among the best flexible loan providers in the market are Standard Life Bank, Legal & General, First Active and Virgin One.

The last two offer full banking facilities as part of the mortgage, meaning that you can treat the loan itself as a bank account.

FirstMortgage, the telephone-based home loan provider, has another solution. The company has a 5.75 per cent fixed-rate deal. The difference is that it can be selected for any period between five and 15 years. In effect, you choose the period you want to pay the loan back over. This loan is not quite so flexi-

ble as the others, but it makes up for it by its cheap rates.

There is a price to pay for ditching a loan part-way through. Redemption penalties are 1 per cent for each year of the mortgage term, with 5 per cent payable at any time in the last five years. So, a 10-year repayment period starts with a 10 per cent redemption charge, falling to 5 per cent in year five and thereafter.

However, the penalty is on the amount still owed; if you have paid back a huge chunk of the loan already, the redemption will be correspondingly smaller.

Some people assume that early redemption penalties will negate the benefits of making even part-repayments of a fixed loan. But this need not be so.

For example, a fixed-rate mortgage of 5.75 per cent for the last five years of a mortgage has a redemption penalty of 5 per cent of the

Relatively unexplored is the concept of early repayment as an investment in itself

amount paid. If, say, someone wanted to part-repay a £10,000 lump sum after three years, they would incur a penalty of £500. However, the interest saved would more than compensate for that loss.

Over the remaining two-year period at 5.75 per cent, the saving would be £1,150. On a 10-year mortgage, the cost of the same part-repayment, also after three years, would be £700. But the interest saved in the remaining seven years would be £2,025.

In all these cases the motivating factor is what else you might be doing with your money if it isn't being used to pay off a monthly loan. And most of us can think of quite a few things to do with it.

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A terrible mistake

I HAVE discovered something about computer screens. If you stare at them long enough, they become three-dimensional, like those interactive posters that look like a bunch of scribbles and are really a floating marijuana leaf.

Of course, it helps if your eyes are out of focus, and what with the welling-up when I think of my boyfriend Olivier, and the sleepless nights, mine are in that condition most of the time.

Olivier has refused to take my calls for a week now, and I couldn't be more miserable. I've even started having nightmares. One minute I'm sound asleep, the next I'm burling through a multi-coloured vortex like something out of Star Trek. When I crash to the ground, I can see I'm in a landscape dreamt up by someone on LSD: overly bright flowers, weird insects... But the only sound is a quiet sobbing coming from behind a small, emerald hill.

When I go to see what's making the noise, I find a white rabbit with its back to me. There's an elaborate old-fashioned pocket watch on the ground in front of it, and between soles it pats it half-heartedly and gulps. "How could she do this to me?" And then it turns to look at me, and it's Olivier, with one long ear sticking up and the other flopping pathetically over his right eye. Then I wake up, racked with guilt and crying.

At work, I have thrown myself into as many deals as possible, in a largely vain effort to distract myself. It's just as well I don't have to work in euros, in the circumstances. The FX boys – indistinguishable from the rah-rah at the last place – may have been having a high old time of it since "euro Monday", but Finlay's still twiddling his thumbs waiting for someone to be more adventurous with the new currency.

Anyway, in between frenzies of manic deal-doing, I have successfully avoided talking to Jaap. After all, what am I supposed to say to him? "Hello, I'm afraid I don't remember anything about it, but did we have a mad night of passion after the Christmas lunch? Only if so, you left your watch on my bedside table." Exactly; you can see my problem.

So I felt more than a little uncomfortable when he strolled over yesterday and flopped down into the spare chair next to me.

"You look as if you need cheering up," he said gently. I muttered that it'd sort itself out, and he looked as if he didn't believe me but wasn't going to pry.

"Life would be a lot easier without other people, wouldn't it?" he continued. "I am in terrible trouble with my sister. She's furious that I've lost the watch she bought me when I left to come to London."

I felt sick. Of all the topics in all the world, why did he have to start on this one?

I was desperately trying to think of a way of changing the subject when Jaap said, "I remember that at the Christmas lunch the strap kept coming undone, so I took it off and put it on the table. I called the restaurant the next day, but they couldn't find it."

I froze. A flash of memory. Being last to leave the table. Seeing Jaap's watch lying there, and picking it up and tucking it into my bag. The bag I turned out drunkenly on my bedside table as I hunted for my contact-lens case that night.

No more mystery. Only, how do I explain this to Jaap? And how do I convince Olivier?

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by Nic Cicutti
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I've never been grossly overweight, but at 19 I joined a Weight Watchers meeting when a friend wanted to lose several stone and needed my support. I liked the fact that I was allowed to eat everyday food rather than having to adopt a fad diet or take diet pills, and I soon reached my target weight. At the time I thought Weight Watchers was just a local group, in our cosy village hall. Three years later I attended an interview for an interesting-sounding job. It was only once I got to the office that I learnt it was Weight Watchers. While I was watching the bustle and bustle of marketing and accounts, the penny finally dropped and I realised that this was an international company.

I became secretary to Linda, who was then the trainee manager responsible for 600 leaders. Before, I'd worked for the Civil Service and was used to addressing colleagues as Mr this and Mrs that. But this is a friendly, laid-back company where everyone is known by their first name, so it took a while to learn who was who within the firm. Linda is American and says what she thinks, which I found a little frightening at first, yet it gave me confidence to see everything she had achieved for herself. We worked as a team for four or five years, but when she got promoted I didn't feel ready to join her and take on what I saw as a high profile, go-getting job.

Being a bit of a stick-in-the-mud I was not keen to change. But after 18 months I had enough confidence to join Linda in her new position as vice-chairman and found my new job wasn't so different. The big change was that I had to learn to deal with far more senior people: organising a conference for up to 50 managers could prove stressful, but it was also rewarding.

Obviously when you work for Weight Watchers you get an awareness of what you are eating, but everyone here is a different size. We are employed for our skills, not our figures - it's not the office of skinny women I'd envisaged. Admittedly the nature of our work means we think about food most of the time, which can make us hungry. If people see me eating something fattening at a social gathering they often tease me, or will confess to feeling guilty about eating in front of me - it's interesting how many people feel guilty about food. At this time of year, after the Christmas



After the Christmas binge, we know that the phones will soon start ringing non-stop

John Lawrence

binge, we know that the phones will soon start ringing non-stop: even I recently went back to Weight Watchers meetings, having put on rather more weight than I wanted to. We don't drag people in from the street; it's up to individuals whether they want to lose weight or not, but like the Government we do want to encourage healthy eating. Mind you, it's not all lettuce leaves and tomatoes; if you want biscuits you can have them, because there's always tomorrow. But we do try to discourage people from automatically reaching for the biscuit tin after an argument, for example, advising them to opt for a nice, comforting bubble bath instead. I've talked to many people on the phone who have lost self-confidence be-

cause they are so upset about their weight. Yet having the courage to phone is an important first step and I enjoy giving them encouragement by explaining that each of the Weight Watchers leaders was once in the same boat as them. Even Linda used to be a member of a group before becoming a leader; I've seen her "before" photographs, in which she's hard to recognise.

Although I am sure that there are male Weight Watchers out there too, it's quite a female-orientated company full of women who in many cases have been housewives themselves, and understand the pressures on women running a home. It's one thing being a high-profile dieter like Oprah (Winfrey), with people to cook for

her, but it's a different ball game for a normal person who has to provide large meals for her children and husband. As a mother myself, I don't think I would have been able to do this job without Linda's understanding; with three teenage daughters of her own she reassures me about my 12-year-old son. We are close: if I've got problems I will confide in her, and every Christmas my family visits hers.

I think that both Linda and my colleagues have a lot to do with the fact that I've stayed here for so long. Although I feel secure in my job I don't get bored, as we are constantly developing new projects. As someone who didn't like change, I have come full circle.

At his convenience



THE TEMP

IT TOOK me three days to work up the nerve to go to the bathroom in Oscar Katz's penthouse - three days with crossed legs, gratefully rushing off on errands in the outside world - and now I'm kicking myself because I could have had a whole three days' more dining out. But finally I worked up the trust in my new boss (I was convinced, rightly, that there wouldn't be a lock on the inside), in the middle of a long afternoon on the phone ringing round every tabloid and men's magazine back in the country, inviting them to the PussyKatz Club's Pussy of the Year competition (well, almost). Well, it was either that or bust laughing. And now I have to pop back in every hour or so, whether or not I need the loo, just to check.

Oscar Katz's bathroom: my mum would have kittens if she knew. I've got used to the bedroom, with its purple satin sheets, in-bedhead stereo and purple satin tenting, because one of my duties is to check the bedside minibar and restock it with quarter-bottles of champagne - but the bathroom is something else. It's a monument to everything to do with water and nothing to do with washing. Well, there's a bidet - gold-plated - in the corner, but it seems to contain mostly white satin G-strings. Otherwise, it's a place for splashing around while looking at yourself.

For a start, the whole place is lined with mirrors, and when I say the whole place, I mean that you can actually look up your own skirt as you cross the floor. I find it disconcerting seeing myself on the loo, but each to his own taste, I guess. The bath isn't so much a bath as a private bordello, being big enough for six, with not just jet streams, but a wave machine. The shower isn't so much a shower as a car wash. Oscar has a body-length whirling loofah thing that goes on at the flick of a switch and scrapes off those dead skin cells while you lean against it. I haven't worked out where he keeps his unguents, but he must have loads stashed behind one of the mirrors, for no one in the history of the world has ever smelled so chemical. They'd label him a national disaster if he were in North America.

This is the weirdest job I've ever done. I work from 2pm to 10pm every day, following Oscar around, getting drinks for people, calling the chauffeur, sending out for sushi and timetabling his assignments. I quickly worked out that my own morals were totally safe with the old roué, as I'm obviously not his type. I haven't got white perm hair piled on my head, frosted pink lipstick and a black leather bra, for a start, and my name isn't Trixie, Vixen or Lulu - and I passed 19 some time ago. I guess there comes a time in every woman's life when she realises she is past it. For certain activities, I never realised my moment would come at 23.

The Pussy of the Year competition is in fact The Search for London's Loveliest Lap-dancer. My job over the next two weeks is to send out invites to everyone Oscar can think of, chase up a few former game show hosts and disc jockeys to pad the celebrity list, and laugh at Oscar's jokes.

Oh, and try hard to tell Trixie (no calls) from Trina (put straight through, leaves different-coloured hairs in sink from those on her head). So I emerged from the bathroom, trying hard to keep a straight face and not cause offence, though the breast-shaped door handle had nearly tipped me over the edge. "Well," said Oscar from the pink inflatable Marilyn Monroe lips chair, "I was wondering if you were related to the Queen and never went at all."

"Oh, no," I said, finding myself suddenly forced to sneeze. "I go." Oscar lit a 6-in-long cigar. "Oh, by the way," he said, "Sorry about the trolleys in the foothold, but yer can't machine-wash them, see." He smiled proudly. "Ladies say I've got the best bum in London. Remind me to show you some time."

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NEW FILMS

LITTLE VOICE (15)
Director: Mark Herman
Starring: Jane Horrocks, Michael Caine
Holed up in her bedroom, timid North Country sparrow LV Jane Horrocks cannibalises her dead dad's record collection, perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations, then falls in with Michael Caine's impresario; a low-rent, Bermuda-shirted hustler with one ravenous eye on the big time. Brenda Blethyn trundles around in a hip-bugging mini-skirt as LV's mum, Ewan McGregor pops up as a simple pigeon-breeder, and seedy seaside cartoonery runs as a garish visual backdrop. Where Mark Herman's last film, *Brassed Off*, was a whole and solid effort, *Little Voice* proves altogether more hitty and piecemeal. For while the director does a decent spot of carpentry in remoulding Jim Cartwright's stage-play for the screen, the result still trades in gestures and caricature and is further hindered by tentative pacing. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks's vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from the rejuvenated Caine push it through to the final curtain. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Phoenix Cinema, Renoir, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

TC (15)
Director: Darren Aronofsky
Starring: Sean Gullette, Mark Margolis
Aronofsky's pungent debut idles in a kind of ante-room between maths lesson and art class, as Sean Gullette's New York number-cruncher ponders a numerical code behind the holy Hebrew texts, and a designer flourishes over the screen. The rhythm runs on a staccato beat - the tone is self-consciously lugubrious. What sustains *TC* is the pure-blood ingenuity of its central conceit, its ongoing "mathematics is the language of nature" mantra, and the louche, too-cool-for-school demeanour. It all adds up. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Green, Screen on the Hill

PSYCHO (15)
Director: Gus Van Sant
Starring: Vince Vaughn, Anne Heche
Homage or sacrilege? Photocopy or experiment? Whichever camp you fall into, Gus Van Sant's

shot-by-shot *Psycho* reconstruction is a bizarre undertaking. Here, the original's high-contrast black-and-white is dumped in favour of Edward Hopperish colour. Hefty Vince Vaughn stands in for twitchy Anthony Perkins, Anne Heche for Janet Leigh, and Julianne Moore for Vera Miles. In the meantime, Van Sant simply runs through a karaoke cover-version of the Hitchcock classic, a pitch-perfect bit of movie mimicry which has a definite curiosity value without ever quite adding up to much more besides. File this one under "White Elephants". **West End:** Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

THE SIEGE (15)
Director: Edward Zwick
Starring: Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis
A rare Hollywood attempt to get to grips with contemporary geopolitics, *The Siege* winds up a hopelessly fingers-and-thumbs affair. The nominal hook (Muslim terrorist bombing in New York) gets draped with all manner of garbled going-on as Denzel Washington's FBI man rubs shoulders with Bruce Willis's gun-bro army renegade. Zwick desperately attempts to touch all the bases, but even the speedy, kinetic editing can't gloss over his film's messy marriage of perfunctory liberalism and noisy chest-beating. **West End:** Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT (PG)
Director: Howard Hawks
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Lauren Bacall
That immortal "You know how to whistle, don't you?" line aside, *To Have and Have Not* has come to be more highly regarded for its behind-the-scenes history than its narrative content. Conceived as a Casablanca cash-in, and irreverently adapted from what Hawks reckoned to be Hemingway's worst novel, this wartime drama is credited with getting Bogart (theo an unhappily married megastar) together with 19-year-old Bacall. The taut, proficient plot has Bogart's Martinique-based skipper sandwiched between the Vichy government and the Free French resistance. Hawks directs with a pointed, easy grace. **West End:** Curzon Soho

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

THE ACID HOUSE (18)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Odeon Camden Town, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

ANTZ (PG)
Computer-animated comedy voiced by a stellar cast stars Woody Allen as worker-ant "Z". **West End:** UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE APPLE (SIB) (PG)
Samirah Mahmalat's precocious debut stages a true-life re-creation of the fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable, this is a luminous and extraordinary missive from a burgeoning Iranian film scene. **West End:** Metro, Renoir

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)
The follow-up to Babe tosses the hapless "sheep pig" into the midst of the city where he becomes the unlikely saviour of a bunch of wails. Comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animalistic fairytale. **West End:** Plaza, UCI Whiteleys

DANCING AT LUGHNASSA (PG)
Less a dance, more of a trudge, Pat O'Connor's Ireland-set saga pinpoints the ebb and flow of an eccentric Catholic family in the deep Donegal. What gives it backbone is Meryl Streep's regal performance as the brood's eldest sister, plus the ever watchable Michael Gambon as the homecoming brother. Kathy Burke, Catherine McCormack and Brid Brennan also feature. **West End:** Barbican Screen

THE DREAM LIFE OF ANGELS
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre

ELIZABETH (15)
She's a Kapur's follow-up to *Bandit Queen* is the story of a female figurehead struggling to gain purchase in a male world. But opportunities for fun are largely neglected in a story of independence triumphing over cruelty. **West End:** ABC Pantons Street, Curzon Minema, Odeon Mezzanine

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. This is a big, noisy and effectively claustrophobic conspiracy thriller, with a top-drawer cast including Jon Voight and Gabriel Byrne. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)
This gaudy swashbuckler gallops through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's authentically Hispanic do-gooder. **West End:** Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

MULAN (U)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Odeon Mezzanine, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** ABC Pantons Street, Clapham Picture House, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)
Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to

head in Gray's thrilling drama. **West End:** Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)
See *The Independent Recommends*, above. **West End:** Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)
The Parent Trap catches Disney reheating its 1961 Hayley Mills heartwarmer into a spry tale starring Lindsay Lohan as the separated-at-birth twin sisters (one British, one American) determined to reunite their parents (Natalie Richardson, Dennis Quaid). **West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea

A PERFECT MURDER (15)
This remake of Hitchcock's classic *Dial M for Murder* is actually not at all bad. Michael Douglas stars as the cuckolded city shark who black-mails an artist into killing his heinous wife, Gwyneth Paltrow. This is gold-plated trash: the sort of thing Hollywood does better than anyone else. **West End:** Warner Village West End

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)
In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as *The Ten Commandments* by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

ROMIN (15)
Rather than adding value, John Frankenheimer's 40 years as a feature director lend an air of knackered resignation to his latest movie, which stars Robert De Niro. **West End:** Odeon Mezzanine

RUSH HOUR (15)
Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker's star in this hit-and-miss affair. **West End:** Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

SITCOM (18)
In this scattergun satire of middle-class mores, Francois Ozon takes pleasure in dismantling a standard nuclear family. The result is savage and funny one moment, indulgent the next. **West End:** Clapham Picture House, Curzon Soho

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION (PG)
A belated Christmas gift for Trekkies the land over, *Insurrection* hits the cinemas stuffed with in-the-know gags and wrapped up in more cornball romance than we're used to. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)
Ben Stiller, Cameron Diaz and Matt Dillon star in this latest comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. The film is basically a soft-centred romance of the kind that drifts out of Hollywood on a regular basis. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly, Odeon Mezzanine

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15)
Robin Williams perfects a lopsided stimpers as the dead chappie who lights out to a cod-impressionist heaven, before jetting southward to rescue his suicide-bride. **West End:** ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Haymarket, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

The Acid House (18)
A trio of interrelated shorts culled from the stories of Irvine Welsh. Debut director Paul McGuigan turns this into a bit of a triumph, adapting his style well to the shifting landscape of Welsh's tales. A cracker, all told.

The Dream Life of Angels (18)
Erick Zovca's remarkable debut draws its strength from the contrasting personalities of Isa (Eloide Bouchez) and Marie (Natacha Regnier), whose friendship comes alive amid the drab environs of Lille.

Mulan (U)
In Disney's animated tale (*above*), a girl disguises herself as a soldier to spare her ailing father from certain death in combat. This movie has it all, and is one of the most visually innovative films that Disney has ever made.

Out of Sight (15)
Steven Soderbergh's tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots off previous Elmore Leonard adaptations, and boasts in Jennifer Lopez and George Clooney the swooniest cinematic pairing of the year.

My Name is Joe (15)
All that one would expect from a Ken Loach film - humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's scarily intense performance as a recovering alcoholic.

ANTHONY QUINN AND XAN BROOKS

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen (Cottesloe)
Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 27 Jan

The Tempest (Barbican Theatre)
David Calder is a magnificently querulous and authoritative Prospero in an imaginative RSC staging by Adrian Noble. In rep to 4 Mar

Kafka's Dick (Piccadilly Theatre)
Spiriting Kafka (a suburban England, this uproarious romp by Alan Bennett survives some peculiar casting in this revival by Peter Hall (*below*)). To 26 Feb

Just Not Fair (Birmingham Rep)
Moving account by Jim Robinson of 18 years' wrongful imprisonment of the Bridgewater Four. Will be performed in rep with Welsh's equivalent prison testament, *Do Profundis*. To 30 Jan

A Month in the Country (Swan Theatre, Stratford)
A conjunction of two great artists and cultures. Ireland's finest living dramatist, Brian Friel, adapts Turgenev's proto-Chukhovich comedy. To 20 Feb

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Charlotte Salomon (Royal Academy)
"Life? Or Theatre?" Salomon's life in pictures. Her 405 raw gouaches tell the story of the German Jewish girl's haste before Auschwitz - an expressionistic opera in three colours. To 17 Jan

Neurotic Realism (Saatchi Gallery)
First instalment of Charles Saatchi's new, made-up art movement, which, by a happy coincidence, consists entirely of works in his own collection. To 28 Mar

Chris Ofili (Whitworth Gallery, Manchester)
This 1998 Turner Prize-winner is an upbeat original, his surfaces dense and decorative, with swirls of dots, Afros and black icons, and incorporating elephant dung. To 24 Jan

Edward Burne-Jones (Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery)
This century exhibition gathers together many favourites illustrating Burne-Jones's romantic and medievalist nether world (*above*). To 17 Jan

Grinling Gibbons (Victoria & Albert Museum)
The best chisel-work of the great 17th-century English woodcarver, who made intricacy and the abundance of nature his trademark. To 24 Jan

CINEMA WEST END

ABC BAKER STREET
(0870-902 0418) @ Baker Street
The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
My Name is Joe 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE
(0870-902 0402) @ Leicester Square, Texas
Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm
What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) @ Leicester Square, Buffalo 66
1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The El 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The El 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm
The El 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road
Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm
Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

BARBICAN SCREEN
(0171-638 8891) @ Moorgate
Dancing at Lughnassa 6.15pm, 8.40pm
Little Voice 6.15pm, 8.40pm

CHELSEA CINEMA
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square, Little Voice
2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 9pm

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE
(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Common
Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm, 9.10pm
Little Voice 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 7pm, 9.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.35pm

CURZON MAYFAIR
(0171-369 1720) @ Green Park
Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CURZON MINEMA
(0171-369 1723) @ Hyde Park Corner
Elizabeth 2pm, 6.30pm
On Connell la Chanson 4.15pm, 8.50pm

CURZON SOHO
(0171-734 2255 (12pm-6pm)) @ Leicester Square, x (P)
1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm
Sizcom 1.30pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm, 9.30pm

ELPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET
(0171-703 4968) @ Elephant & Castle
Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm
The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE
(0990-888990) @ Leicester Square
The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
Psycho 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

GATE NOTTING HILL
(0171-727 4043) @ Notting Hill Gate x (P)
1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm, 7.15pm, 9.15pm
(+ Short: Drip Drop)

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN
(0870-907 0718) @ Ravenscourt Park
Hammersmith Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm

Little Voice 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9pm
Psycho 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm

ICA CINEMA
(0171-930 3647) @ Charing Cross
Dust 6.30pm, 8.50pm
No Skin Off My Ass 5pm, 7pm

METRO
(0171-734 1506) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm
The Boys 4.15pm, 8.45pm
Fire 2pm, 5.20pm, 7.20pm, 9.35pm
(+ Short: The Albatross)
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.20pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET
(0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate
Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN
(0870-050007) @ Camden Town
8.10pm Little Voice 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6.50pm, 9.05pm
Psycho 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET
(0870-050007) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

ODEON KENSINGTON
(0870-050007) @ High Street
Kensington Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3pm, 5.05pm, 7.10pm, 9.10pm
Little Voice 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.55pm, 9.30pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.55pm, 5.30pm, 8.05pm, 10.15pm
Psycho 1.35pm, 4.15pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
The Siege 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE
(0870-050007) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 10.10pm
Little Voice 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 12.05pm, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm, 10.10pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0870-050007) @ Marble Arch
Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 5.15pm, 7.20pm, 9.25pm
Little Voice 1.45pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm
Psycho 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.25pm, 8.55pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm

ODEON MEZZANINE
(0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE
(0870-050007) @ Swiss Cottage
Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Little Voice 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Psycho 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm
Psycho 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.35pm, 8.20pm

ODEON WEST END
(0870-050007) @ Leicester Square
Elizabeth 12.30pm, 3pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm
Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
Rush Hour 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.35pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm, 10.15pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA
(0171-494 4153) @ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
Psycho 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END
(0171-437 4343) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm, 10.10pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.10

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) • Harvey on the Hill
Enemy of the State 12.10pm,
3pm, 6pm, 9pm, 9.30pm
Little Voice 12.35pm, 2.50pm,
5.05pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm
The Mask of Zorro 11.25am,
2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.30pm
The Prince of Egypt 11.45am, 2pm,
4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.10pm
4.10pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm
Rush Hour 12.30pm, 2.50pm,
5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm
The Siege 1.30pm, 4.05pm,
6.45pm, 9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 1.40pm,
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 6.20pm, 8.50pm

HOLLOWAY
ODEON (08705 050007) • Holloway Road
Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.05pm,
5.10pm, 5.30pm, 8pm, 8.20pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.20pm, 8.50pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 3pm, 7.55pm
The Prince of Egypt 1.05pm, 2.55pm,
4.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm
3.25pm, 6pm, 9pm
Rush Hour 8.35pm
The Siege 12.25pm,
3.10pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.20pm, 8.50pm

ILFORD
ODEON (08705 050007) • Gants Hill
Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm
Little Voice 1.50pm, 4pm, 8.20pm
8.45pm
Psycho 12.40pm, 3.20pm,
5.55pm, 8.35pm
The Siege 12.10pm, 2.50pm, 5.40pm,
8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm

ISLE OF DOGS
THE SPACE ARTS CENTRE
(0171-515 2453) • DLR Mudchute
King and Country 8pm

KILBURN
TRICITY CINEMA (0171-328 1000) • Kilburn
Little Voice 6.30pm, 8.45pm
(+ Short: Kings of Slam with
8.45pm performance only)

KINGSTON
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) • BR: Kingston
Enemy of the State 2.25pm, 5.15pm, 8.05pm
Psycho 2.25pm, 6pm, 8.25pm
5pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.25pm,
6pm, 8.30pm

MUSWELL HILL
ODEON (08705 050007) • Highgate
Enemy of the State 12.50pm, 3.20pm,
5.55pm, 8.30pm
The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm
The Siege 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.05pm,
4.15pm, 6.35pm, 8.20pm

PECKHAM
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) • BR: Peckham
Rye of the State 3.40pm, 6.20pm,
9pm
Little Voice 5.05pm,
7.10pm, 9.15pm
Psycho 4.45pm, 7.05pm, 9.25pm
Rush Hour 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 9.30pm
The Siege 4.20pm, 6.50pm,
9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.30pm

PURLEY
ABC (0870-9020407) • BR: Purley
Enemy of the State 4.55pm,
8pm
The Siege 5.10pm, 8.10pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 6.10pm,
8.50pm

PUTNEY
ABC (0870 9020401) • Putney
Bridge
Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm,
8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND
ODEON (08705 050007) • BR: Richmond
Enemy of the State 3pm, 6pm, 9pm
Little Voice 2pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.30pm
The Siege 12.40pm, 3.20pm,
6.20pm, 9.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) • BR: Richmond
The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm,
8.40pm
Out of Sight 6.30pm,
9.20pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm,
4.20pm, 7.00pm, 9.30pm
6.30pm, 9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm,
6.50pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD
ABC (0870-9020419) • BR: Romford
Enemy of the State 2.25pm,
5.20pm, 8.10pm
Psycho 2.30pm,
5.55pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.15pm, 6.10pm,
8.50pm

ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705 050007) • BR: Romford
Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm,
5.30pm, 8.15pm
Little Voice 12.05pm, 2.10pm, 4.15pm,
6.25pm, 8.35pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm, 5.40pm,
8.40pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm,
4.20pm, 7.00pm, 9.30pm
6.30pm, 9.20pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 4pm,
6.50pm, 9.30pm

SIDCUP
ABC (0341-555131) • BR: Sidcup
Psycho 5.45pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 6pm, 8.40pm

STAPLES CORNER
VIRGIN (0870-907017) • BR: Crick-
lewood
Enemy of the State 3pm,
5.05pm, 8.45pm
Little Voice 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm
The Prince of Egypt 2.25pm,
4.40pm, 7.00pm, 9.20pm
4.20pm, 7.00pm, 9.20pm
Rush Hour 7pm,
9pm
The Siege 1.15pm,
3.05pm, 6.35pm, 9.15pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.30pm,
6.15pm, 8.45pm

STRATFORD
NEW STRATFORD PICTURE
HOUSE (0181-535 3366) • BR: Stratford
Enemy of the State 5.15pm, 8.15pm
Little Voice 1.35pm, 3.45pm,
6.15pm, 8.30pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm
The Prince of Egypt 2pm
Psycho 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm,
9pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.30pm, 3.50pm,
6.10pm, 8.30pm

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) • BR: Streatham
Hill
The Prince of Egypt 2.10pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.15pm
Psycho 2.25pm, 5.55pm,
8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 2.30pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm
What Dreams May Come 8.50pm

ODEON (08705 050007) • BR: Stratford
Enemy of the State 12.20pm, 2.20pm, 3.05pm,
5.10pm, 5.30pm, 8pm, 8.20pm
Little Voice 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.20pm, 8.50pm
The Mask of Zorro 1.55pm, 3pm, 7.55pm
The Prince of Egypt 1.05pm, 2.55pm,
4.45pm, 6.35pm, 9.10pm
3.25pm, 6pm, 9pm
Rush Hour 8.35pm
The Siege 12.25pm,
3.10pm, 6pm, 8.45pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.15pm, 3.45pm,
6.20pm, 8.50pm

SURREY QUAYS
UCI (0990 888990) • Surrey Quays
Enemy of the State 4pm, 6.50pm,
8.45pm, 9.50pm
Fear and Loathing
in Las Vegas Tue 6.20pm,
8.45pm
Little Voice 3.20pm,
6.10pm, 8.30pm
The Mask of Zorro 3.05pm, 6pm, 9pm
The Parent Trap 3.30pm, 7.15pm
The Prince of Egypt 4.10pm,
7.20pm, 9.45pm
The Siege 4.10pm, 7pm,
9.40pm
Rush Hour 10pm,
9.10pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 3.50pm, 4.20pm, 6.20pm
(not Tue), 7.05pm, 9.30pm
What Dreams May Come 9.20pm

SUTTON
UCI (0990-888990) • Morden
Enemy of the State 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm
Little Voice 3.15pm, 6.05pm, 9.15pm
The Mask of Zorro 3.30pm,
6.20pm, 9.10pm
The Parent Trap 2.30pm
The Prince of Egypt 2pm
Psycho 5pm, 7.20pm, 9.45pm
The Siege 4.10pm, 7pm, 9.40pm
Rush Hour 10pm,
9.10pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 3.55pm,
6.30pm, 9pm

TURNPIKE LANE
CORONET (0181-888 2519) • Turnpike Lane
Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.45pm,
8.20pm
Psycho 3.50pm, 6.30pm,
8.40pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

UNDERIDGE
ODEON (08705 050007) • Underidge
The Siege 1.40pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.35pm, 4pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm

WALTHAMSTOW
WALTHAMSTOW CENTRAL • Waltham-
stow Central
Enemy of the State 1.40pm, 4.50pm,
8.10pm
The Siege 2pm, 5pm,
8pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.20pm

WALTON ON THAMES
THE GREEN AT WALTON (01932-
252525) • BR: Walton on Thames
Little Voice 3.25pm, 6.40pm,
8.50pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 3.50pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

WELL HALL
CORONET (0181-850 3351) • BR: Eltham
Psycho 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.40pm

WIMBORNE
ODEON (08705 050007) • South Wimbeldon
Enemy of the State 2.30pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm
Little Voice 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm
The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm,
The Prince of Egypt 12.25pm
Psycho 2.45pm, 6pm, 8.30pm
The Siege 2.45pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.45pm,
4.05pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) • South Woodford
Enemy of the State 2.10pm, 5.10pm,
8pm
Psycho 1.25pm, 3.45pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm
Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm

WOOD GREEN
NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) • BR: Turnpike Lane
Jockeys
Bole Kaawa Kete 2pm
Paradise Babu 8.45pm
Wojed 5.30pm

WOOLWICH
CORONET (0181-854 5043) • BR: Woolwich
Arsenal
Psycho 3.50pm, 6.10pm,
8.40pm
The Siege 3.35pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA

REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place
SW1 (0171-876 2144/146)
Sittcom (18) 6.30pm, 8.30pm

ICA CINEMA The Mall SW1 (0171-
9161-568) • N1761
Mist Asa (18) 5pm, 7pm
Angel Dust (15) 6.30pm, 8.30pm
Sex/Life in LA (NC) 9pm

THE LUX CINEMA Hoxton Square
N1 (0171-684 0201) • The
Big Lebowski (18) 6.45pm
+ Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 8.50pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South
Bank SE1 (0171-928 3232)
6.10pm, 8.40pm
The Maltese
Falcon (PG) 8.30pm
Special Preview: Discoland
(NC) 8.45pm

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road N2
(0181-444 6785) • Little
Voice (15) 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm,
8.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place
WC2 (0171-437 8181) • Love Is
the Devil (18) 1pm
Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas
(18) 3.30pm
Rounders (15) 6.15pm
Henry Fool (18) 8.50pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA
Crisp Road W6 (0171-420 0100)
Butterfly Kiss (18) 7pm
+ I Want You 8.50pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE
High Street, Brentford, Middlesex
(0181-876 1176) • Little
Voice (15) 5pm, 9pm
Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 7pm

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA
(01273-602503) • A Fistful
of Dynamite (18) x (PI) (15)
4.30pm, 8.50pm
The Mighty (PG) 6.45pm

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
Insomnia (18) 6pm, 8.25pm
Little Voice (15) 6.05pm
Lost Red: Rock and Roll Heart
(NC) 8.35pm

CARDIFF
CHAPLIN ARTS CENTRE (01222-
399660) • Character (15) 2.30pm,
8pm
The End (18) 7.30pm

CHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-
786650) • Out of Sight (15) 1.15pm
Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 4.30pm

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
High Society (U) 1pm
His Girl Friday (U) 3pm
Sittcom (PG) 9.20pm
The Fountainhead (PG) 7.15pm

IPSWICH
IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-
215544) • Insomnia (18) 6pm,
8.15pm
My Name Is Joe (15) 6.15pm, 8.30pm

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
The Boys (18) 5.45pm
The Governess (15) 8.15pm

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-
day, times and prices for the whole
running times include intervals. •
— Seats at all prices — Seats at
some prices • — Returns only
Madness — (1): Sun, (3): Tue, (4):
Wed, (5): Thu, (6): Fri, (7): Sat

ALARMIS & EXCURSIONS
Michael Frayn's new comedy about
a dinner party which is interrupted
by mysterious messages stars Pe-
licity Kendal and Josie Lawrence.
Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5065) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, (5) 7.30pm, (15) 5.50-
£27.50, 130 mins.

AMADEUS David Suchet stars
as Galileo in Peter Shaffer's ac-
claimed drama. Old Vic The Cui, SE1
(0171-928 7616) • BR/VE Waterloo.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7)
3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

ANNIE Rags to riches story of the
nauseatingly optimistic orphan. Vic-
toria Palace Victoria Street, SW1
(0171-834 1317) • BR/VE Victoria.
Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.30pm, (11)
4pm, £7.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

ART LARRY LAMB, JACK DEE, TIM
Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy
about art and friendship. Wynd-
ham's Charing Cross Road, WC2
(0171-369 1736) • Picc Circ. Tue-Sat
8pm, (4) 3pm, (7) 11pm, (11) 5pm,
£9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Louis
Levy family musical based on Disney's
cartoon version of the favourite fairy
tale. Dominion Tottenham Court
Road, W1 (0171-656 1886) • Picc
Ct. Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7.20pm,
£18.50-£35, 130 mins.

BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-
sell's long-running Liverpool musical
melodrama. Phoenix Charing
Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733)
• Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (5) 7.30pm,
(7) 4pm, £11.50-£35, 130 mins.

BUDDY Musical biog-show tracing
the brief life of Buddy Holly.
Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930
8800) • Covent Garden/Charing X.
Fri 8.30pm, Sat 8pm & 8.30pm, mats
11.40pm, £10-£27, half price Friday
matinee. 160 mins.

CATS Lloyd Webber's musical ver-
sion of TS Eliot's poems. New Lon-
don Palladium, Adelphi Play, Pic-
cadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-930
0072) • Covent Garden/Holborn.
Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (11) 7.30pm,
£12.50-£35, 165 mins.

CHICAGO Maria Friedman and
Peter Dinklage in this hit Broad-
way musical. Adelphi Play, Pic-
cadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-344 0055) • Charing
X. Mon-Sat 8pm, (4) 7.30pm, £16-
£36 (inc booking fee), 130 mins.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF
WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE
(ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespearian
Company. East-riding through 37
plays. Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1
(0171-369 1747) • Picc Circ. Wed-
Sat 8pm, (5) 3pm, (7) 4pm, (11) 4pm,
£6-£25, Thur mats all seats £10,
120 mins.

DR DOOLITTLE Phillip Schofield
talks to the animals in this new
stage adaptation featuring Jim Hen-
son Puppets. London Apollo Ham-
mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6
(0171-416 6022) • Hammersmith.
Tue-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.20pm, (11)
£10-£32.50, 150 mins.

FRAME THE MUSICAL High-octane
stage version of the TV series
charting the highs and lows of a class
of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince
of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-
639 5972) • Picc Circ. Mon-
Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm,
Sat 4pm & 8pm, ends 16 Jan, £15-
£30.

FILUMENA Judi Dench and
Michael Pennington star in Timber-
lake Wertenbaker's new translation
of Eduardo de Filippo's play. Pic-
cadilly Denham Street, W1 (0171-
369 1734) • Picc Circ. In rep
tonight 8pm, ends 27 Feb, £12-£30,
120 mins.

GREASE Energetic stage version
of the hit film. Cambridge Earham
Street, WC2 (0171-494 5080) • Co-
vent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
(4) 7.30pm, £10-£30, 150 mins.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Christo-
pher Cazenove and Susannah York
in Peter Hall's acclaimed production
of Wilde's comedy. Lyric Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) • Picc
Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 3pm,
(7) 4pm, £8.50-£29.50, 165
mins.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-
tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494
5085) • Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
Sat 8.15pm, (4) 2.30pm, (7) 5pm,
£10.50-£25, 110 mins.

INTO THE WOODS Sondheim
and Lapine's acclaimed musical
based on fairytales. Donmar Ware-
house Earham Street, WC2 (0171-
369 1732) • Covent Garden.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (4) 7.20pm,
£15-£27.50.

THE INVENTION OF LOVE Tim
Stoppard's play about the life of po-
et A. E. Housman, author of The
Shropshire Lad. Theatre Royal,
Haymarket Haymarket, SW1 (0171-
930 8800) • Picc Circ. Tue-Sat
7.30pm, (4) 7.20pm, £10-
£32.50.

JESUS, MY BOY Tim Conti stars
in John Dowd's satirical Chris-
tian show. Apollo Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) • Picc
Circ. Tue-Fri 8pm, Sat 5pm & 8pm,
(11) 3pm & 5pm, £5.50-£18.50.

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison
Steadman and Julie Savaterra
star in this touching comedy about
three sisters returning home for
their mother's funeral. Vaudeville
Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9887)
• BR/VE Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm,
(5) 7.30pm, £8-£27.50.

LES MISERABLES Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-
terpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue,
W1 (0171-434 0909) • Picc Circ.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, (5) 7.20pm,
£7-£35, 195 mins. • **MISS SAUNDERS**
Musical which reverts the Madam
Butterfly tragedy to Victorian times.
Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine
Street, WC2 (0171-494 5060) • Co-
vent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
(4) 7.30pm, £5.75-£35, 165 mins.

THE MOUSETRAP Agatha
Christie's whodunit. St Martin's
West Street, WC2 (0171-8361443)
• Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 8pm, (3)
2.45pm, (7) 5pm, £10-£24.50, 135
mins.

THE PHANTOM OF THE
OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's
Gothic musical. Her Majesty's Hay-
market, SW1 (0171-494 5400) • Picc
Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (4) 7.30pm,
£10-£35, 150 mins.

RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-
hème and set in modern day New
York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Ave-
nue, WC2 (0171-211221) • Hol-
born/Tot Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 8.30pm,
(4) 7.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160
mins.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE:
OLIVER! Peter Pan Stephen
Oliver's musical accompaniment the
tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow
Up, with Michael Bryant as the Story-
teller in rep today 2pm & 7.15pm,
ends 20 Feb.

LYTTELTON: Celia, Canning,
Emmanuelle And Dick Terry Johnson's
new play looks at the Carry On ac-
tors and recreates Sid James, Ken-
neth Williams and Babs Windsor on
stage. In rep tonight 7.30pm, ends
16 Jan, 120 mins.

COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New
drama from Michael Frayn about the
discovery of the atom. In rep today
2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 27 Jan, 145
mins. Oliver & Lyttelton: £25-£27,
Cottesloe: £12-£18, NT2000: £4,
concs £3. Day seats from 10am.
South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000).
BR/VE Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE
COMPANY: **THE PIT** Bad Weather
Robert Holman's examination of the
breakdown in family relationships. In
rep tonight 7.15pm. The Pit: £11-
£18.50, 889 Centre, EC2 (0171-639
8931). BR/VE Barbican/Moorgate.

SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Bill
70s musical featuring legendary
singer the Bee Gees and starring
Adrian Edmondson. London Palladium,
Aldwych Street, W1 (0171-494 5020)
• Oxford Circus. Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
(4) 7.20pm, £10-£32.50, 135
mins.

THE SNOWMAN Award-winning
production of Raymond Briggs' co-
temporary classic. Sadler's Wells At
The Peacock Portland Street, WC2
(0171-863 8222) • Holborn/Tem-
ple. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends
30 Jan, £7.50-£32.50.

STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew
Lloyd Webber's hit-tech roller-musical.
Apollo Victoria Wilton Road,
SW1 (0171-416 6070) • BR/VE Vic-
toria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, (3) 7.30pm,
£12.50-£30, 150 mins.

THE WEDNESDAY REVIEW
The Independent 13 January 1999

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Channel 5

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The hatred on display, how seemed out of all proportion to the menace rats' pose. Lewis gently nudged at the question of why this was. Early on, an intriguing pair of statistics was posted on screen: the number of New Yorkers killed by rats in one year was 156; the number bitten by fellow New Yorkers in the same year was 1,102. So why is it that rats get all the bad publicity? Partly because they are so like us – one man speaks of seeing the souls of rats in their eyes, and again and again it was their intelligence, their purposeful malice, which impressed the interviewees.

The film was shot with panache: drenched-up, intense interviews were intercut with carefree footage of rats

camped, it thickens the evidence of small mammalian species and as predators, such as barn owls, which depend on them.

Meanwhile, feral cats I saw in Australia have all but wiped out macropods such as bandicoots and, in the US, huge colonies of abandoned cats massacre flocks of migrating bird, incursions enough to prompt their neighborhood. Cats share, we learned, a predatory nose with most other animals. It's a paradox with porcupines bristles

All in all, the only real advantage cats have over rats as pests is that they're not as smart. Their eyes, their ears have better control over their bowels and bladder. Then again, rats are cheaper to feed, don't take up much space, or make much noise. Frankly, I




DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

HAMMERSLY SLUES (9pm BBC2, right) This new observational documentary, *that's what "doc-seez"* got called on BBC2 has already made headlines thanks to the general level of incompetence on display (much of it related to underfunding) and the fact that one of the Liverpool police officers filmed there by Jerry Crowther was spectacularly suspended on corruption charges during the series. Crowther spent four years with the Merseyside police, and his first interview is called "For the Queen". The police agent for working overtime for nothing. The drug squad seem most offended by the cash seizures with often ludicrous results.



BLOOD ON THE CARPET (8.50pm BBC2, right) This absorbing new six-part series follows some of the biggest heartburn battles of recent years, starting with Granada's 1995 hostile takeover of Trusthouse Forte. The combat personalities involved were Granada's Gerry Robinson and Trusthouse's Peter Porter, who each embodied opposite styles of management. Robinson had the reputation of being a ruthless cost-cutter, while Porter took a more "emotional" in Robinson's words, approach - Gentlemen one might even say, especially as Porter was famously shooting grouse when Robinson launched his £4 billion bid.



PROFILE OF THE DAY

IN THE DEEP WOODS (11.40pm BBC1) Those with time to kill this afternoon might like to watch Shirley Temple in *Wesley Wister* (1.40pm C4) to see whether they agree with Graham Greene (*see above*). Otherwise, it's a day of intriguing casting, with the coupling of Rosanna Arquette (*right*) and Anthony Perkins being the most disturbing. There's an added chill to this 1992 thriller in that it was Perkins's last performance before he died of AIDS. He plays a private investigator tracking a notorious serial killer who seems to have started taking an interest in children's author Rosanna Arquette.

